Los Angeles Times

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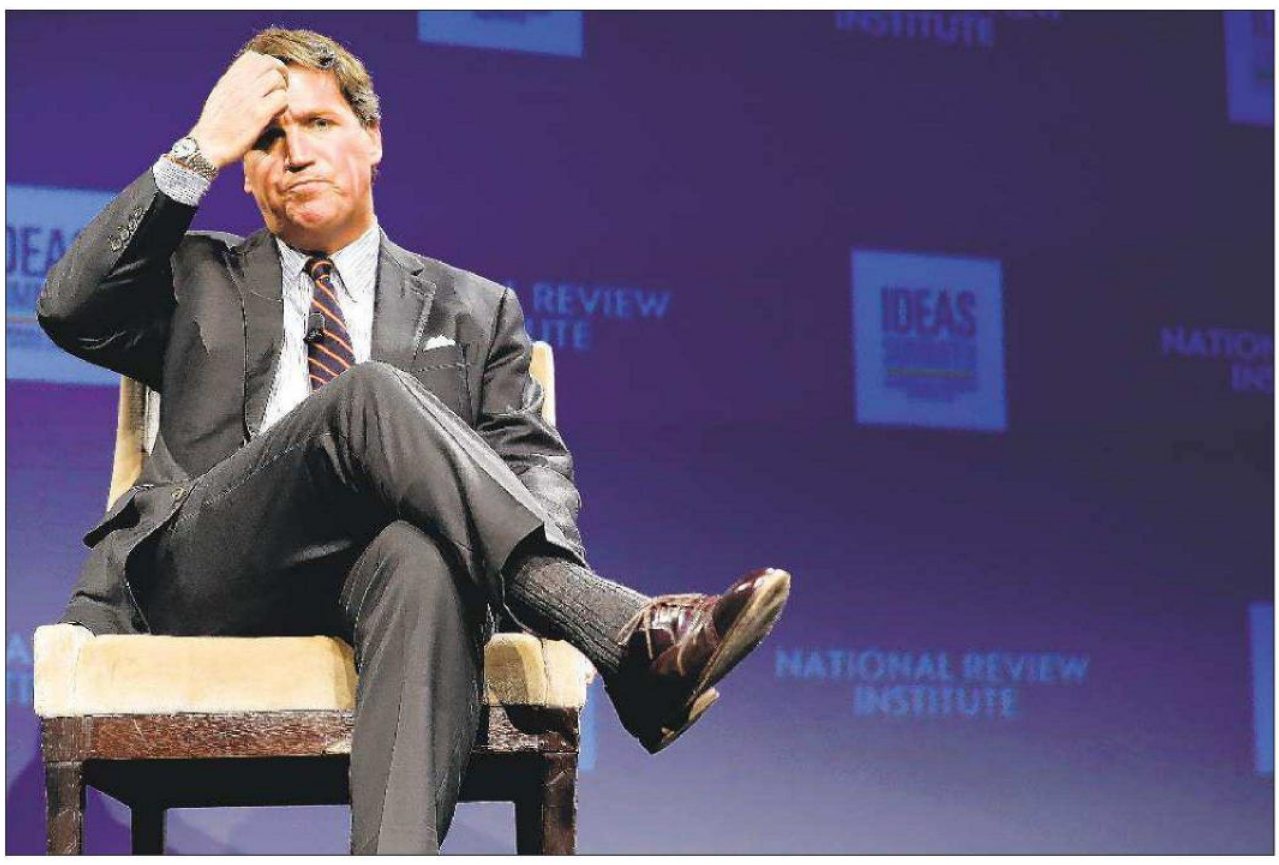

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TUCKER CARLSON, whose final show was Friday, had sustained Fox News as a ratings leader. Carlson has now been fired by all three cable news networks, after having been previously ousted from CNN and MSNBC.

Fox News ousts Tucker Carlson

The decision to fire the conservative host is said to have come straight from Rupert Murdoch and to be tied to a discrimination suit by a former producer

BY STEPHEN BATTAGLIO

Tucker Carlson, the provocative, conservative prime-time host who sustained Fox News as a ratings juggernaut, has been forced out of the network.

Fox News announced the stunning departure of its top-rated host Monday with no explanation, but people familiar with the situation who were not authorized to comment publicly said the decision to fire Carlson came straight from Fox Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch with input from board members and other Fox Corp. executives.

According to one person familiar with the discussions, Murdoch's son Lachlan, executive chairman of Fox Corp., and Suzanne Scott, chief executive of Fox News Media, decided late Friday that Carlson had to go.

Carlson's last show was Friday.

"Fox News Media and Tucker Carlson have agreed to part ways," the network said in a statement. "We thank him for his service to the network as a host and prior to that as a contributor."

A Fox News representative had no other details on Carlson's exit and declined to comment.

Rupert Murdoch elevated Carlson from contributor to daily host in 2016. Carlson moved into prime time in 2017 after the ouster of Bill O'Reilly, the successful longtime host who left amid sexual harassment allegations.

Carlson's exit is related to the discrimination lawsuit filed by Abby Grossberg, a producer fired by the network last month, the sources said. Carlson's senior executive producer, Justin Wells, has also been terminated, according to insiders.

Grossberg was moved off "Sunday Morning Futures With Maria Bartiromo" and onto "Tucker Carlson Tonight," where she alleged she was bullied and subjected to antisemitic comments, according to a lawsuit in New York.

In deposition testimony, the former Fox News producer also said she was coerced by company lawyers to

[See **Carlson,** A6]

Heat wave is set to trigger big snowmelt

San Joaquin Valley may climb to mid-90s this week. Warmth poses threat of floods.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

After weeks of uncertainty, forecasters say an incoming California heat wave will trigger rapid snowmelt on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada and cause more flooding in portions of the San Joaquin and Owens valleys this week.

Temperatures in Central California are forecast to climb into the high 80s and mid-90s beginning Wednesday and into the weekend, with the potential for some areas to approach daily records.

Nighttime temperatures are also expected to be warmer than usual — around 40 degrees — meaning Sierra snowmelt could start to happen 24 hours a day, UCLA climate scientist Daniel Swain said.

"The 'big melt' is now here," Swain said. "We said there would eventually be some week between about March and May when the rate of snowmelt dramatically increased, either due to a heat wave or late-season warm storm. I think this is probably that week now."

The warmth will descend upon some of the state's deepest snowpack ever recorded, with the southern Sierra still measuring 256% of normal for the date. The average snow water equivalent — or the amount of water contained in the snow — is about 56 inches, according to state data.

Many of the areas most likely to be threatened by the runoff are those that have already experienced inundations this year, including the Tulare Lake Basin, where the once-dry lake reemerged in recent weeks and left some ranches and farmlands underwater.

"A lot of rivers that are currently fairly high, but well within their banks, might exceed flood stage by later this week," Swain said.

That includes the Merced River at Pohono Bridge in Yosemite National Park, which is expected to exceed its flood stage, 10 feet, by Thursday evening, accord-

[See **Snowmelt,** A7]

Priced out of a UC dream school

More low-income students are choosing community colleges or Cal State instead.

BY TERESA WATANABE

The journey to college has tested the resolve of Jonathan Cornejo, a senior at West Adams Preparatory High School in central Los Angeles. The son of a single immigrant mother from El Salvador, he had no home Wi-Fi or working laptop for stretches at a time or a study space in the family's cramped apartment.

He sometimes felt lost in his college preparatory classes and couldn't always find the help he needed. Yet Jonathan overcame those challenges to earn a 4.0 GPA while serving as student body president and yearbook editor in chief. His perseverance paid off last month when he received a coveted admission offer from his dream school, top-rated UC San Diego.

But Jonathan is planning to go to a community college. Even with a substantial financial aid offer, he can't afford to attend the University of California — and he's not alone.

His plight is mirrored across the UC system, as rising college costs compounded by inflation and pandemic fallout put dream campuses out of reach for many students. More than 10,000 of the state's lowest-income students admitted to UC are choosing instead to attend California community colleges or California State University, in part due to financial shortfalls.

At UC, the share of undergraduates who receive Pell Grants — federal aid for the neediest students — has

[See **UC,** A12]

Cable news is not going anywhere

Media reaction to Fox and CNN firings shows the power the medium still wields.

LORRAINE ALI
TELEVISION CRITIC

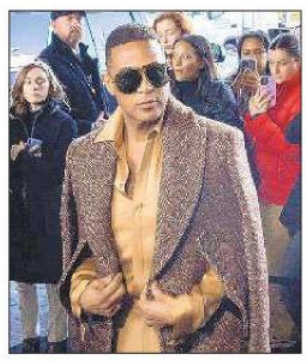
Two of the most recognizable faces in U.S. television news fell within minutes of each other, both unceremoniously dropped Monday by the cable networks that once championed them.

Before news of their unrelated dismissals rocked the mediasphere, Tucker Carlson and Don Lemon had little in common save for their positions as high-profile hosts in rival newsrooms. Now, they share the fact that their misogynistic behavior cost them those jobs.

Otherwise, it's hard to imagine two men more diametrically opposed in their beliefs than the former Fox News star and the former CNN personality. There's simply not enough room here to unpack the myriad differences — it'd be like trying to explain the Mideast conflict in three easy sentences. But in short, Carlson promoted racist ideology, bogus election-fraud conspiracy and anti-vax propaganda, and he sided with Vladimir Putin regarding Russia's attack on Ukraine. Lemon did the opposite.

Regardless of their differences, the media's dramatic and ongoing reaction to the news of both firings points in the same direction. It's a sig-

[See **Ali,** A6]



YUKI IWAMURA AFP / Getty Images

CNN'S FIRING of Don Lemon sent shock waves through the media.

Just a symptom of the toxicity
The Fox host's firing is satisfying, but it isn't the end, Mark Z. Barabak writes. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Don Lemon fired after 17 years
The CNN host's dismissal comes months after remarks about ex-Gov. Nikki Haley. **CALENDAR, E1**

CNBC anchor's claim prompted CEO's exit

NBCUniversal chief was fired for cause after sex harassment inquiry, Comcast says.

BY MEG JAMES

NBCUniversal Chief Executive Jeff Shell's sudden departure followed an investigation into a sexual harassment complaint made against him by a longtime CNBC correspondent.

The 41-year-old journalist, Hadley Gamble, has been a Middle East correspondent and anchor for the NBCUniversal-owned financial news network for about a decade. Her attorney confirmed Monday that Gamble had filed a harassment complaint against Shell.

In a filing with the Securities & Exchange Commission, NBCUniversal parent Comcast Corp. acknowledged that it hired outside counsel after the company received a complaint that Shell "engaged in inappropriate conduct with a female employee, including allegations of sexual harassment."

"During the investigation, evidence was uncovered that corroborated the allegations," Comcast said in the Monday filing.

Shell was fired for cause and his contract was terminated, Comcast said.

The company does not plan to pay him a severance package, a person close to the company said.

Comcast had announced Sunday that Shell was stepping down "effective immediately."

It was unclear when Gamble filed her sexual harassment complaint, although a person familiar with the situation said the claims were made several weeks ago, prompting Comcast to hire the outside law firm to investigate.

The investigation wrapped up over the weekend.

Gamble's London-based attorney confirmed the nature of Gamble's complaint in a statement Monday.

"The investigation into Mr. Shell arose from a complaint by my client of sexual

[See **Shell,** A7]

Russian mercenaries' propaganda war

Prigozhin Press Service

YEVGENY Prigozhin leads the Wagner Group, whose media arm makes action movies that portray Wagner fighters as heroes who save others from tyranny.

BY NABIH BULOS

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine — In the action movie "Tourist," military instructors with the Russian mercenary group Wagner deploy to the Central African Republic and find themselves reluctant warriors against rebels and a corrupt ex-politician ahead of a presidential election.

Then there's "Granit," another big-budget action flick whose title character, a grizzled but idealistic Russian military trainer, sacrifices himself to protect the southern African country of Mozambique from ISIS-style bandits.

And in the more recent "Best in Hell," Wagner fighters duke it out with an un-

[See **Wagner,** A4]

Retrial in actor's rape case begins
Danny Masterson is accused of assaulting three women at his home between 2001 and 2003. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Lakers defeat Grizzlies in OT
In a tight battle, L.A. gets past plucky Memphis 117-111 to seize a 3-1 lead in their playoff series. **SPORTS, B10**

Labor nominee is voice for workers
Julie Su's advocacy for rights makes her an enemy of Republican senators, writes Michael Hiltzik. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Turning sunny.
L.A. Basin: 73/55. **B6**

VISIT…

Why the 155 mm round is crucial for Ukraine

Kyiv is seeking more of the shells, which offer 'a good balance between range and warhead size.'

By Tara Copp

WASHINGTON — The 155 mm howitzer round is among the artillery munitions most requested by Ukraine as it fights against Russia. The United States has shipped more than 1.5 million rounds, but Kyiv is seeking more.

Here's why this munition has been so important.

What is the 155 mm?

The 155 mm round is a large bullet made up of four parts: the detonating fuse, projectile, propellant and primer.

Each round is about 2 feet long, weighs 100 pounds and is 155 mm, or 6.1 inches, in diameter. They are used in howitzer systems, which are towed large guns identified by the range of the angle of fire.

The 155 mm shells can be configured in many ways: They can be packed with highly explosive material, use precision guided systems, pierce armor or produce high fragmentation. Past variants have included smoke rounds to obscure troop movement and illumination rounds to expose an enemy's position.

"The 155 mm round and the similar Soviet-era 152 mm rounds are so popular because they provide a good balance between range and warhead size," said Ryan Brobst, a research analyst at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. "If you have too small a shell, it won't do enough damage and go as far. If you have a larger shell, you can't necessarily fire it as far. This is the most common middle ground, and that's why it's so widely used."

What is its history?

The French developed the 155 mm round in response to trench warfare during World War I. Early versions included gas shells, according to Keri Pleasant, historian for the Army's Joint Munitions Command.

As World War I continued, the 155 mm gun became the most common artillery piece used by the Allies, Pleasant said, and the U.S. Army later adopted it as its standard field heavy-artillery piece.

The U.S. military fielded its own version, the M1, for World War II. After that war, the new NATO alliance adopted the 155 mm as its artillery standard.

By the time of the Korean War, the round had been modified again, with a cluster munition variant.

"The round contained 88 submunitions, which were dispersed over a wide area to destroy vehicles, equipment and personnel," Pleasant said.

How is it used by Ukraine?

Howitzer fires can strike targets up to 15 to 20 miles away, depending on what type of round and firing system is used, which makes them highly valued by ground forces to take out enemy targets from a protected distance.

"Adversaries don't have much warning of it coming. And it's harder to hide from incoming rounds that are arcing in from the top, which makes it highly lethal," Brobst said.

In Ukraine, 155 mm rounds are being fired at a rate of 6,000 to 8,000 a day, said parliamentary member Oleksandra Ustinova, who serves on the wartime oversight committee. Those rounds are eclipsed by the estimated 40,000 daily Russian variant howitzer rounds, she told reporters at a recent event in Washington sponsored by the German Marshall Fund.

The Pentagon previously announced how many rounds it was providing in each security assistance package, which are sent about every two weeks to keep weapons and ammunition flowing into Ukraine. But in February it stopped specifying the number of 155 mm rounds shipped in each package, citing operational security.

However, the Pentagon says that in its overall count of assistance provided to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022, it has sent more than 160 155 mm howitzers, more than 1.5 million 155 mm rounds, more than 6,500 precision-guided 155 mm rounds and more than 14,000 155 mm Remote Anti-Armor Mine (RAAM) Systems — the latter essentially a 155 mm shell packed with four mines that scatter on the ground and can take out a Russian tank if it drives over them.

Other countries have also provided howitzers, but Kyiv has continually asked for more. As of last year, Ukrainian officials were requesting as many as 1,000 howitzer systems to push back Russian forces.

As Ukraine prepares for an intense counteroffensive this spring, it will probably need to fire 7,000 to 9,000 155 mm shells a day, said Yehor Cherniev, a member of parliament who spoke to reporters at the German Marshall Fund event.

In recent months, the Biden administration has been using presidential drawdown authority to send ammunition to Ukraine directly from U.S. military stockpiles, instead of having to wait to buy rounds from defense firms, so it can arrive in time for the anticipated counteroffensive.

The U.S. has been training Ukrainian troops in Germany on how to better use the 155 mm rounds in combined arms tactics — coordinating strikes with targeting information provided by forward-based troops and other armored systems to maximize damage and reduce the number of rounds needed to take out a target.

Copp writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Nomaan Merchant contributed to this report.

Matt Rourke Associated Press

A STEELWORKER moves 155 mm artillery projectiles through the manufacturing process April 13 at Pennsylvania's Scranton Army Ammunition Plant.

Finally, accountability for Tucker Carlson. But it's only a start

For those who loathed him, the Fox News host's ouster is a relief. But don't think it will end our divisions.

MARK Z. BARABAK

If you believe in accountability, if you believe in personal responsibility, if you believe that misdeeds merit punishment and those who knowingly lie should pay for their dishonor and deceit, then Monday was a good day.

Tucker Carlson — the race-baiting, immigrant-hating, election-denying, Putin-promoting, two-faced ringmaster of right-wing sophistry — was unceremoniously dumped by his corporate sponsor, Fox News.

Let the joyous news be spread!

If you believe his ouster will commence a new day of sunshine and companionship across the land, healing our divisions and making red and blue Americans join hands as one, you are probably as gullible as the viewers who swallowed the diet of fallacy and claptrap routinely fed them by Carlson and other disingenuous Fox hosts.

It's not going to happen.

As odious and insidious as he was, Carlson was just a symptom — albeit also a major spreader — of the toxicity that ails our politics and culture today.

His removal from a slot in television's prime time eliminates a major source of air pollution. But it doesn't change the mentality, a corporate drive for profit at any cost, or cease the kind of purposeful mendacity that turned Carlson into one of Fox's biggest celebrities and a kingmaker in today's benighted Republican Party.

Lest it be forgotten, Carlson replaced Bill O'Reilly, another top-rated star, who trafficked in distortion and misdirection, when O'Reilly grew entangled in one of the network's serial sexual-harassment scandals.

Unless Fox throws out its business model and overlord Rupert Murdoch registers as a Democrat, Carlson will doubtless be replaced by a host equally willing to serve up the same noxious brew of incitement, spin and made-up stuff to an audience that craves it.

On the propaganda network where never is heard a discouraging word.

One of the most startling revelations to come out of the Dominion Voting Systems lawsuit against Fox, which resulted last week in a nearly $800-million payout, was how many of the network's on-air personalities — Carlson included — knew the allegations of a stolen election were false. They persisted in promoting the lie because they believed it was what their audience wanted to hear, truth and journalistic ethics be damned.

"The insight one can gather from the Dominion disclosures is that Fox News has focused on satisfying existing needs and playing to the desires of a base, niche audience and has done so successfully," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a University of Pennsylvania professor and one of the country's leading scholars on politics and the news media.

"And when threatened" with losing viewers, she noted, the network and its hosts deliberately misled them "to protect its interest in controlling that space."

Amply demonstrating Fox News' corporate credo of market share *uber alles*.

Carlson's defenestration happened to coincide with Don Lemon's firing from CNN and because what-about-ism is today's reflexive fallback, let's briefly consider Lemon's dismissal.

He made a stupid, sexist remark about Nikki Haley, the 51-year-old former South Carolina governor seeking the GOP presidential nomination, being past her prime. It also didn't help that Lemon failed to catch on as co-host of "CNN This Morning."

But nothing Lemon said compares with the long, reprehensible list of vicious and hateful statements Carlson spewed. Those include attacks on immigrants — who, he suggested, make America poorer and dirtier — antisemitic and white supremacist tropes and a suggestion, mid-pandemic, that viewers call police or Child Protective Services if they saw a child playing outside and wearing a mask.

There might have been a smirk and own-the-libs wink when Carlson made such egregiously over-the-top remarks. But there was nothing the least funny about how some in his audience responded.

In one extreme case, the "great replacement" theory Carlson promoted was cited by a gunman who killed 10 people and wounded three others in May 2022 at a supermarket in a predominantly Black neighborhood of Buffalo, N.Y.

Reams of academic studies have also documented the deleterious "Fox News effect" on viewers — who showed higher levels of being misinformed or believing proven falsehoods — as well as pushing congressional lawmakers to more far-right, uncompromising positions.

It is too much to blame a single individual, as despicable as Carlson may be, for leading a whole country into a slough of anger, backbiting, recrimination and mistrust.

But there is something particularly revolting about a person who was not only willing and eager to contribute to that poisoned atmosphere but did so knowing he was promoting a dangerous and explosive pack of lies.

In private, Carlson called allegations about Dominion stealing the election from President Trump "shockingly reckless" and "absurd." On air, he spoon-fed them, straight-faced, to his credulous audience.

Carlson's humiliating dismissal won't cure all that ails this country. But it's satisfying nonetheless.

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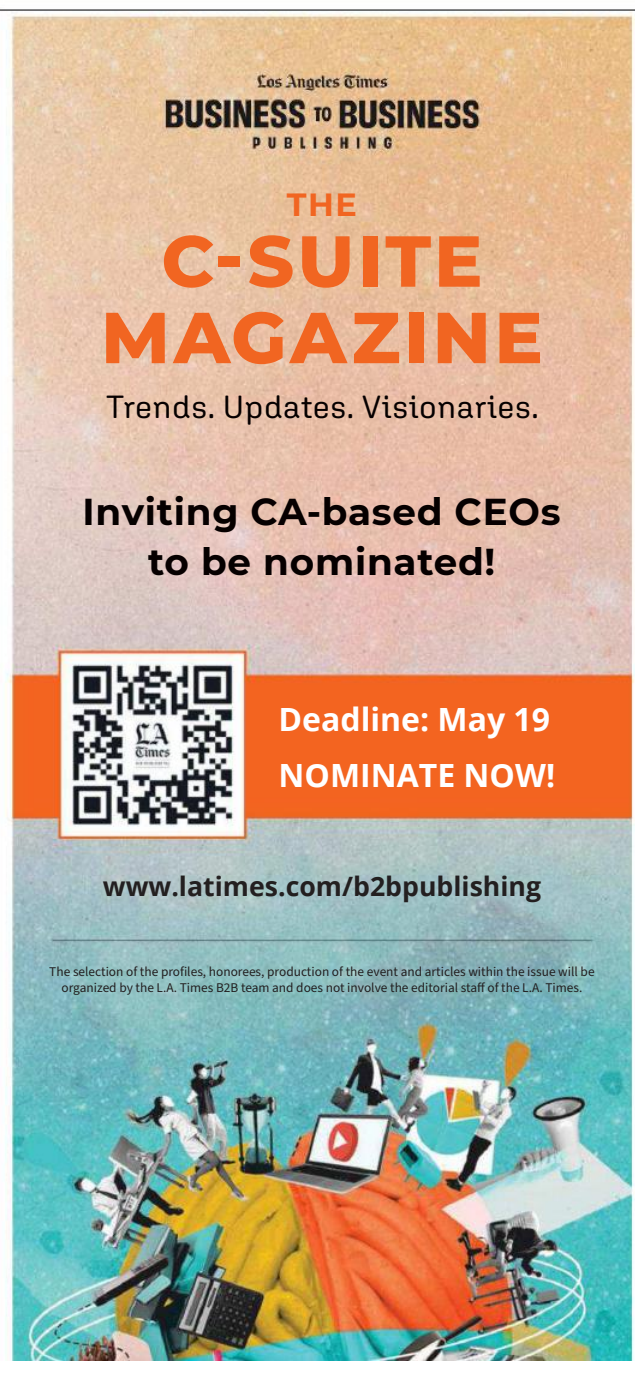
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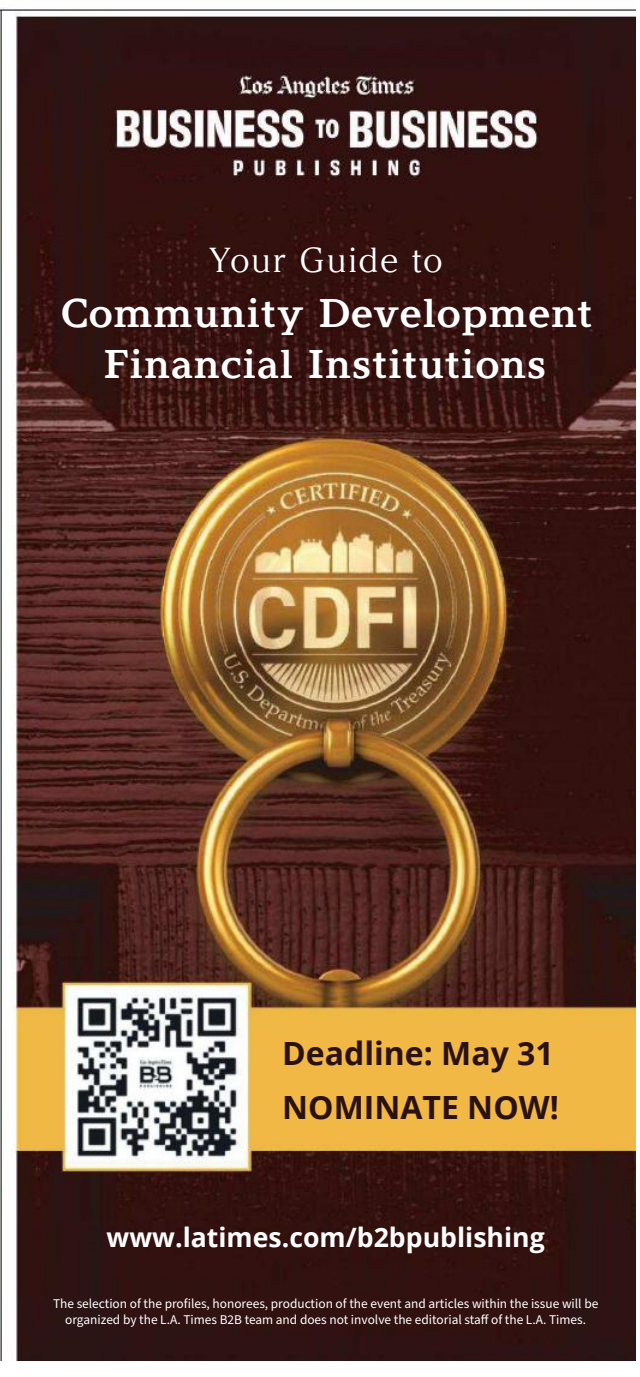
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As foreigners are flown out, many Sudanese struggle to flee

Citizens fear rival generals will escalate their battle for power once the evacuations have been completed.

By Jack Jeffery and Noha Elhennawy

Raad Adayleh Associated Press

JORDANIANS evacuated from Sudan arrive at a military airport in Amman. A stream of European, Mideast, African and Asian military aircraft flew in all day Sunday and Monday to ferry foreigners out of Sudan.

KHARTOUM, Sudan — As foreign governments airlifted hundreds of their diplomats and other citizens to safety, Sudanese on Monday desperately sought ways to escape the chaos, fearing that the country's two rival generals will escalate their all-out battle for power once evacuations are completed.

The evacuations were a dramatic operation. In convoys, foreign diplomats, teachers, students, workers and families from dozens of countries made their way past combatants at tense front lines in the capital, Khartoum, to reach extraction points — or even drove hundreds of miles to the country's east coast. A stream of European, Mideast, African and Asian military aircraft flew in all day Sunday and Monday to ferry them out.

But for many Sudanese, the airlift was a terrifying sign that international powers, after failing repeatedly to broker cease-fires, expect a worsening of the fighting that has pushed the populace to disaster.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said he had helped broker a 72-hour cease-fire to begin late Monday. It would extend a nominal truce that has done little to stop the fighting but helped facilitate the evacuations.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres meanwhile warned of a "catastrophic conflagration" that could engulf the whole region. He urged the 15 members of the Security Council to "exert maximum leverage" on both sides to "pull Sudan back from the edge of the abyss."

Sudanese face a harrowing search for safety in the constantly shifting battle of explosions, gunfire and armed fighters looting shops and homes. Many have been huddling in their homes for nine days. Food and fuel are leaping in price and harder to find, electricity and internet are cut off in much of the country, and hospitals are near collapse.

Those who can afford it were making the 15-hour drive to the Egyptian border or to Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast. Those without means to get abroad streamed out to relatively calmer provinces along the Nile north and south of Khartoum. Many more were trapped, with cash in short supply and transportation costs spiraling.

"Traveling out of Khartoum has become a luxury," said Shahin Sherif, a high school teacher. The 27-year-old was frantically trying to arrange transport out of Khartoum for himself, his younger sister, mother, aunt and grandmother. They had been trapped for days in their home in Khartoum's Amarat neighborhood while fighting raged outside. Finally, they moved to a safer district farther out.

But Sherif expects things to get worse and worries his sister, aunt and grandmother, all diabetic, won't be able to get the supplies they need. Bus ticket prices have more than quadrupled so that renting a bus for 50 people to get to the Egyptian border costs about $14,000, he said.

Amani Taweel, an Egyptian expert on Africa, warned of "horrific suffering" for Sudanese unable to leave. In a country where a third of the population already needed humanitarian aid, aid agencies can no longer reach most Sudanese because of the clashes. Once evacuations are complete, "warring parties will not heed any calls for a truce or a cease-fire," she said.

Heavy gunfire and thundering explosions rocked the city in continued fighting between the military and a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF. In the afternoon, intensified airstrikes hammered Khartoum's Nile-side Kalakla district for an hour until the area was "razed to the ground," said Atiya Abdulla Atiya, secretary of the Doctors' Syndicate. The bombardment sent dozens of wounded to the Turkish Hospital, one of the few medical facilities still functioning, he said.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, said an administrator at its Khartoum embassy was killed on his way to work to help oversee the evacuations, without saying who was responsible. Cairo has close ties to the Sudanese army but has joined calls for a cease-fire. Earlier, Egypt had denied any of its embassy staff were harmed after the Sudanese military reported that one person had been killed, blaming the RSF.

More than 420 people, including at least 273 civilians, have been killed and more than 3,700 wounded since the fighting began April 15. The military has appeared to have the upper hand in fighting in Khartoum, but the RSF still controls many districts in the capital and the neighboring city of Omdurman, and has several large strongholds around the country.

For foreign nationals, the need to abandon Khartoum had become overwhelming by the seventh day of the conflict.

Khartoum's wealthy neighborhoods, where most foreigners live, saw some of the heaviest shelling and drone strikes, and several fell under RSF control.

Alice Lehtinen, a British teacher living in the Khartoum 2 neighborhood, was shot in the foot by a stray bullet on the first day of fighting. Soon after, RSF troops occupied the lower floor of her apartment as they combed the streets for weapons, dollars and other supplies, she said. By this point, the Sudanese pound had become worthless as shops were smashed and looted.

Another British teacher, Elizabeth Boughey, said the RSF broke into her house and stole her Sudanese pounds, then returned soon after to hand the money back. They looked young, she said, somewhere between 16 and 18.

The United States said Monday that it has begun facilitating the departure of private U.S. citizens after swooping in to extract diplomats on Sunday. White House national security advisor Jake Sullivan said the U.S. has placed intelligence and reconnaissance assets over the evacuation route from Khartoum to Port Sudan but does not have any troops on the ground.

France secured the use of a base on the outskirts of Khartoum to use as an extraction point after intense negotiations with both sides — the military that held the base and the RSF that held the surrounding districts, a French diplomatic official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the operation.

Amid continued gunfire, nationals from dozens of countries made their way to the base. Some braved the roads in their own vehicles, while others called on private security firms to shepherd them through military and RSF checkpoints.

France brought out nearly 500 people, including citizens from 36 countries, on flights to Djibouti. Military planes from the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Spain and Greece also picked up passengers.

Meanwhile, groups of South Koreans, Palestinians, Kenyans, Saudis, Japanese and other nationalities made the 13-hour drive from Khartoum to Port Sudan to be picked up by their nations' aircraft. Flights continued into Monday afternoon, and France, Germany and the Netherlands said they were prepared to do more flights if possible.

British Middle East Minister Andrew Mitchell said about 2,000 citizens still in Sudan have registered with the embassy for potential evacuation. He told the BBC the government was looking at "a series of possible evacuations." Many Britons in the country have complained about a lack of information from the government and say they are in the dark about any evacuation plans.

Despite the pullout, U.S. and European officials insisted that they were still trying to secure an end to the fighting. But so far the conflict has shown how little leverage they have with two generals — army chief Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF leader Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo — who appear determined to fight to the end.

The U.S. and EU have been dealing with the generals for years, trying to push them into ceding power to a democratic, civilian government. A pro-democracy uprising led to the 2019 ouster of former strongman Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir. But in 2021, Burhan and Dagalo joined forces to seize power in a coup.

Jeffery and Elhennawy write for the Associated Press.

13 suspected gangsters die in Haiti vigilante violence

Authorities say a mob in the capital beat and set fire to victims. Six other bodies were also burned in nearby area.

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — A mob in Haiti's capital beat and burned 13 suspected gang members to death with gasoline-soaked tires Monday after pulling the men from police custody at a traffic stop, police and witnesses said.

The horrific vigilante violence underscored public anger over the increasingly lawless situation in Port-au-Prince, where criminal gangs have taken control over an estimated 60% of the city since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

Six more burned bodies lay in a nearby neighborhood later Monday, and some witnesses said that the victims were killed by police and set ablaze by residents, but the AP could not verify the accounts independently.

An AP reporter at the scene saw 13 bodies burning in a street.

The fires drew hundreds of onlookers in the hilly suburb of the city, many of them shielding their noses from the fumes. The Canape Vert neighborhood so far has managed to evade control by the criminal gangs.

A witness who gave his name as Edner Samuel said the suspects were believed to have been heading to another area to join a group of gang members who were battling police. Another witness, Jean Josue, said there had been a lot of shooting in the area since the early morning.

The situation in the capital was tense, and shots could be heard ringing out from several neighborhoods.

In the nearby area of Turgeau, a few minutes' drive from Canape Vert, witnesses said that police had killed six gang suspects in a firefight, and that residents dragged the bodies from where they fell to a central location and set them on fire.

An AP reporter saw the six burned bodies. Police did not immediately release any statements about the violence in Turgeau.

Witnesses in Canape Vert said the suspects there were believed to have been members of the Kraze Barye gang, which translates to "Breaking Barriers." Authorities say the group is led by Vitel'Homme Innocent, who is accused of helping kidnap 17 U.S. missionaries in October 2021 and also is linked to the assassination of Moise.

China affirms ex-Soviet nations' sovereignty after its envoy's gaffe

Associated Press

BEIJING — The Chinese government said Monday that it respects the sovereignty of former Soviet republics after Beijing's ambassador to France caused an uproar in Europe by saying they weren't sovereign nations.

Ambassador Lu Shaye was being called on the carpet by the governments of former Soviet republics, and French President Emmanuel Macron, after Lu's comment to a French broadcaster. While answering a question about the status of Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014, Lu said that there was no agreement to "solidify their status as a sovereign country."

The governments of former Soviet republics Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were among those who rejected Lu's comment. Macron, at a summit in Ostend, Belgium, said in an interview with TF1 Info that "I don't think it's the place of a diplomat to use such language."

He offered "full solidarity to countries which were attacked in the reading of their histories and their borders."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said that "China respects the sovereign status of the former Soviet countries after the dissolution of the Soviet Union." Mao said Beijing's position was "consistent and clear" but gave no indication whether Lu's comment was considered incorrect.

The ambassador drew a parallel between Ukraine and the other former Soviet republics that declared independence when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.

"With regards to international law, even these ex-Soviet Union countries, they do not, they do not have the status — how to say it? — that's effective in international law, because there is no international agreement to solidify their status as a sovereign country," Lu told the news channel LCI.

The Chinese Embassy in France clarified the ambassador's remarks, saying in a statement that Lu was not making a "political declaration, but an expression of his personal view during a televised debate."

His remarks "should not be the object of over-interpretation," it said. "The position of China ... has not changed."

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, it said, "China was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the nations concerned. ... The Chinese side respects the status of sovereign nations born after the breakup of the Soviet Union."

Speaking after chairing a meeting of European Union foreign ministers, the bloc's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, welcomed the clarification provided by China.

"Beijing has distanced itself from the unacceptable remark of its ambassador to Paris," Borrell told reporters in Luxembourg. He described the response from China's Foreign Ministry as "good news," and added: "I believe that this issue has now been duly clarified."

France and Estonia advised Lu to think before he speaks.

In a meeting Monday with the ambassador, France's Foreign Ministry underscored "the unacceptable character" of his questioning "the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states," according to a ministry statement.

It said the international community — China included — recognized the 15 nations that gained or recovered independence with the breakup of the Soviet Union, including Ukraine and its borders that included Crimea when it declared independence in 1991. The ministry called on the ambassador to reflect "the official positions of his country when he speaks publicly," the statement said.

In Estonia, senior Foreign Ministry official Kristi Karelsohn told the Chinese charge d'affaires that even if the remarks by the Paris ambassador, Lu, reflected a personal position, he was nevertheless an official representative of China.

"We hope that representatives of China will refrain from expressing these kinds of opinions in the future," Karelsohn said, according to the Baltic News Service, the region's main news agency.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he doesn't recognize Ukraine's sovereignty. The Kremlin has also made clear that it sees the independence of the Baltic states and their role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the EU as threats to Russian security.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's government sees Moscow as a partner in opposing U.S. domination of global affairs.

Beijing declared it had a "no-limits friendship" with Moscow before Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine but has tried to appear neutral, calling for a cease-fire and peace talks. China has repeated Russian justifications for the invasion.

The U.S. and others say a cease-fire would legitimize Putin's territorial gains.

Thousands of tequila bottles filled with liquid meth seized by Mexico

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican navy inspectors have intercepted 11,520 tequila bottles bound for export that actually contained nearly 10 tons of concentrated liquid methamphetamine, the navy said Monday.

The discovery was made over the weekend at the Pacific Coast seaport of Manzanillo, the navy said. It said the bottles contained about 19,000 pounds of meth.

Photos of the seizure show a sniffer dog alerting inspectors to cardboard boxes of glass bottles full of a brownish liquid, consistent with the color of añejo, or aged tequila. The labels on the bottles were not visible in the video.

Mexico is the world's only producer of authentic tequila. Although there have not been any reported instances of such bottles reaching consumers, ingesting the mixture would be extremely dangerous.

The country has become a major producer of meth, and drug smugglers frequently are stopped at the border when liquid meth is found in their windshield washer fluid or other containers in their cars.

The liquid meth is usually recovered by the smugglers and taken to facilities where the water is extracted and the drug is returned to its usually crystal form.

Welcome to the propagandist Wagner-verse

[**Wagner,** from A1]
named enemy — clearly meant to be Ukrainians — in an unspecified location that's an obvious stand-in for the Donbas, Ukraine's war-ravaged eastern heartland. The movie starts and ends with the lines: "We have a contract — a contract with the company, a contract with the motherland. ... We know we're going to hell. But in hell we'll be the best."

Welcome to the Wagner-verse, a multimedia propaganda project encompassing action movies, documentaries, pro-war social media channels, animated shorts, comics and even children's cartoons — all aimed at building the brand of Russia's notorious private army, and promoting the Kremlin's policies while they're at it.

The group, a security contractor similar in some ways to the U.S. private military company Blackwater, is making headlines spearheading Moscow's no-holds-barred battle for the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut. In Ukraine, its cadres — whose ranks include prison recruits — stand accused of horrific abuses against their foes, and sometimes against their own fighters.

Earlier this month, two videos emerged of presumed Wagner mercenaries beheading the corpses of two Ukrainian soldiers. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the perpetrators as "beasts" and vowed an investigation. The Kremlin said it, too, would investigate.

That followed footage last year of the apparent summary killing of a former prison inmate-turned-Wagner conscript who was bludgeoned to death with a sledgehammer after deserting and returning to Russia. Indeed, the sledgehammer has become the group's calling card after its members filmed themselves clubbing a Syrian army deserter in 2017, cutting off his hands and head with a shovel, then setting his body alight.

But that's not the image you get in the Wagner-verse. Far from brutal mercenaries, the fighters are portrayed as heroes, going beyond the call of duty to help importunate countries fend off chaos agents often linked to the West, which is held in disdain.

By contrast, unsurprisingly, Russia is shown to be a reliable friend. One children's cartoon in French, "Lion and Bear," depicts a Russian bear racing across continents to help a lion in the Central African Republic beat back hyenas plundering a village's crops.

In another animated short, a Wagner paratrooper comes to the aid of a soldier in Mali — another African country where the company has been active — and helps him repel hordes of zombies wearing helmets with the French flag; a figure in the French presidential palace pounds his fist in frustration.

Associated Press

A CEREMONY last fall in Volgograd, Russia, honors Alexei Nogin, who was killed in Ukraine. Nogin commanded an assault detachment of the Wagner Group, which is run by an oligarch close to Vladimir Putin.

"The Americans fight for democracy. But we fight for justice," says a Russian trainer in "Tourist."

That's of a piece with Russian propaganda, especially in Africa, where Moscow has long played on anti-colonial sentiment against France and other European powers, said Ovigwe Eguegu, a Nigerian policy analyst at the Beijing-based consultancy Development Reimagined, who wrote a report evaluating what he called Russia's "private military diplomacy."

"In Mali, there was a lot of anti-French rhetoric before Russian influence. But what Russian strategic communications and outlets were able to do was to fan the flames," he said. "What it did was really position Russia as a natural ally."

There is evidence that the messaging, though ham-handed, has played well in many of the places Wagner operates. "Tourist," for example, had a red-carpet premiere in the Central African Republic's capital, Bangui, that was attended by more than 10,000 people; the movie has racked up tens of millions of views on YouTube. ("Granit" and "Best in Hell" are also available on YouTube.)

During a coup in Burkina Faso in September, supporters raised Russian flags as they cheered the ouster of a president deemed incapable of quelling an uprising by rebels linked to Islamic militants. One demonstrator told the news network Voice of America: "We're here because we want the defense of Russia," adding that former colonial overlord France had had no success in fighting the insurgents during its multi-year deployment of troops in Burkina Faso.

The welcome for Wagner persists despite the allegations of abuses by its fighters in Syria, Libya, the Central African Republic, Mozambique, Mali and Ukraine, including reports of summary executions, kidnapping, torture during interrogations and looting, Eguegu said.

Many Africans know that their governments' relationships with Wagner are purely transactional, and have become desensitized to human rights abuses in their strife-torn countries, Eguegu said.

"There's awareness of all these issues, but you have to understand: If you have mercenaries killing seven to 10 people, that's Tuesday in the Central African Republic," he said.

Wagner's military operations have benefited Moscow diplomatically. Many African nations chose not to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, either because of economic or military ties, historical links with Communist figures or anger with the West for dismissing African concerns.

The Wagner multimedia propaganda campaign represents a sea change from the group's earlier behavior, when it maintained a mostly enigmatic (journalists' favorite word was "shadowy") profile as a paramilitary organization whose very existence went unacknowledged.

Only last year did Yevgeny Prigozhin, an oligarch and former hot dog vendor close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, publicly identify himself as the chief of Wagner, formally called PMC Wagner, for private military company. Though under sanction by the U.S. and the European Union, Prigozhin is bankrolling films through Aurum Productions, a company he controls, to burnish Wagner's image — and sully the West's.

Take "Tourist." The main character is an ex-police officer — call-sign Tourist — who lands in the Central African Republic as one of 300 trainers (presumably Wagner employees) for the national army. The assignment is not meant to include combat, until rebels rush into a village on their motorcycles and terrorize residents as part of a Western-linked coup attempt. The trainers — outnumbered, of course — join their charges to defeat their enemies. The hero is grievously wounded, and is evacuated by helicopter while a female Central African Republic soldier looks at him with sorrowful but adoring eyes. Cue credits.

The Wagner fighters are portrayed as an elite band of commandos who value every member of the team — a vision not always reflected by reality.

Despite what "Granit" would have you believe, Wagner had to leave Mozambique in defeat a few months into its deployment after the local Islamic State affiliate ambushed and beheaded a number of its men. And far from caring for its cadres, the group has employed human-wave tactics in Ukraine , throwing successive groups of fighters — usually prison recruits for the initial assault — to breach Ukrainian defensive lines.

"We didn't expect in the 21st century to have an adversary using such tactics," said Sensei, a commander in the Ukrainian army's 3rd Mortar Brigade who is now fighting in the areas around Bakhmut. "They're stepping over their comrades' bodies on the way to us."

Wagner has had prior experience in Ukraine. Indeed, its mercenaries first appeared in 2014 alongside pro-Russia separatists in Crimea and the Donbas, led by a retired special forces commander with a penchant for Nazi lore named Dmitry Utkin, call sign Wagner.

A year later, it appeared in Syria fighting a rebel uprising alongside government troops and defending oil infrastructure. Starting in 2017, it made inroads into Africa, propping up beleaguered dictators while also commandeering extractive projects in gold, diamonds, uranium, manganese and oil. In Libya, it fought with the forces of a rogue general — and former CIA asset — to defeat the internationally recognized government.

At the same time, it moved from being a run-of-the-mill private military company contracted by African governments to being an instrument of the Kremlin — but one that can be kept at arm's length, said Lucas Webber, a researcher focused on violent non-state actors and founder of the website Militant Wire.

"It was a way to create some distance between the Russians, have plausible deniability and be force multipliers by training troops," he said, describing the group as more of a semi-state organization than a traditional private military contractor.

In the last few years, Wagner has become part of a wider network of companies with Prigozhin, its chief, at the center. These include a so-called troll factory for social media manipulation, Prigozhin's original Concord catering firm, Aurum Productions and the Paritet Film studio, and even a car wash.

And the Wagner-verse is set to expand. In November, Prigozhin opened a new corporate headquarters in St. Petersburg meant to house IT developers and entrepreneurs and provide them with "a comfortable environment for generating new ideas in order to increase Russia's defense capability," according to a statement he released at the time.

Gone is any reticence around the group's existence or its name. At the front of the headquarters is a glass-clad tower; emblazoned at the top are the words "PMC Wagner Center."

Squeezing the 'green lung of Kochi'

Surging development is cutting deep into a mangrove forest in southern India.

By K Praveen Kumar

KOCHI, India — Burrowed between mangroves and a bustling skyline, 70-year-old Rajan, who uses only one name, reminisces about his old home.

For nearly 60 years, Rajan has lived comfortably among the trees in Mangalavanam forest in India's southern Kerala state. In the last two decades, the surrounding city of Kochi has boomed as the state's financial capital and swallowed up once-protected green areas, including Rajan's former home.

He was forced to sell his land to a local private real estate broker when the area was bought up for construction about 15 years ago. He moved into a makeshift dwelling on the edge of a protected bird sanctuary.

"Now there are buildings all around and no wind," said Rajan, adding that the towering concrete has made the city and forest stifling hot.

Government buildings, private offices and homes have sprung up, cutting deep into the forest known as the "green lung of Kochi." The trees are now squeezed on all sides by buildings, construction and smog.

Environmentalists are concerned over the loss and declining health of mangrove cover, which is particularly effective at sucking planet-warming carbon dioxide out of the air, can fend off scorching heat for nearby residents and sustains wildlife populations.

Officials and developers alike defend the need to house the state's dense population and harness economic growth in the world's soon-to-be most populous nation, but experts say this cannot come at the cost of green spaces.

R S Iyer Associated Press

RAJAN, who uses only one name, says development in Kochi has made the city and forest stifling hot.

Kerala has lost nearly 98% of its mangrove forests, shrinking from 270 square miles to just 6½ square miles since 1975, according to the Kerala Forest Research Institute. Mangrove cover across the country crept up slightly between 2017 to 2019 at a rate of 0.5% per year thanks to concerted government restoration and maintenance projects in Kerala and beyond.

"I had literally fought with the government to come out with plans to protect the mangrove forests," said Kathireshan Kandasamy, who studies India's mangrove forests and is a former member of the National Mangrove Committee, a body set up by the government to advise on conservation.

In 2022 the Indian government, following Kandasamy and the committee's advice, identified 44 critical mangrove ecosystems in the country, including two in Kerala. It launched a management plan to protect and maintain the areas. State governments also started budgeting funds for conservation projects.

The shrunken Mangalavanam is now listed as a protected area, but there are concerns about the impact of nearby development.

"I found out that some city drainage is passing through this mangrove ecosystem," said Rani Varghese, a research scholar at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies. Varghese said the runoff "is changing its whole ecosystem."

Though the trees themselves are still sucking planet-warming carbon dioxide out of the air, Varghese explained, effluent and pollutants in the soil hamper how good of a sink for carbon the soil can be.

With record amounts of carbon dioxide being pumped into the air by human activity, maintaining ecosystems like mangrove forests can counteract some of the harms of warming.

The potential of the forest to store carbon "is actually in the state of deterioration," Varghese said.

A. Anil Kumar, the mayor of the city's administrative body, the Kochi Corp., said that although they cannot do anything about wastewater runoff immediately, the area will continue to be studied.

In the meantime, property companies use what's left of the squeezed forests as a selling point for extravagant homes and office buildings.

Signs outside new developments boast about their luxury apartments' untouched green views from multiple balconies. Long plastic billboards line roads with images of thick forests.

K. Krishnankutty, a nearby resident, comes for a morning walk every day on the surrounding road, where mangrove branches hang overhead. He said he loves the shade and chirping birds but laments how much lush space has disappeared in recent years.

"All around this Mangalavanam used to be open with no tall buildings," Krishnankutty said. "So many migratory birds used to come here. Now we cannot see any as the buildings cover up this area."

Some 75% of the remaining mangroves across Kerala are in the hands of private individuals and could be cleared for more lucrative shrimp farming, said M. Ramit, a program officer for the Wildlife Trust of India, who is working on a project to restore mangroves in Kannur, a coastal district in northern Kerala.

"The Kerala government had earlier devised a plan to acquire the mangrove land from private individuals in order to conserve them," Ramit said, but "somehow, the plan was later dropped."

But Kerala's state department of environment and climate change said there is no threat to the existing forests, regardless of ownership, as they are protected by state laws.

Varghese, the Kerala University researcher, said there's still hope that mangrove loss can be reversed and the forest ecosystem can function normally in the near future.

With the right measures, she said, communities can "turn it around as a good carbon sink."

Kumar writes for the Press Trust of India.

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Proud Boys portrayed as 'Trump's army'

Prosecutor tells jurors that extremist group was 'willing to commit violence' on behalf of the then-president.

By Michael Kunzelman and Lindsay Whitehurst

Eva Marie Uzcategui AFP/Getty Images

ENRIQUE TARRIO, shown at a protest supporting Cubans demonstrating against their government in July 2021 in Miami, and four Proud Boys lieutenants are accused of plotting to forcibly stop the transfer of power.

WASHINGTON — Ready for "all-out war," leaders of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group viewed themselves as foot soldiers fighting for Donald Trump as the then-president clung to power after the 2020 election, a prosecutor said Monday at the close of a historic trial over the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

After more than three months of testimony, jurors began hearing attorneys' closing arguments in the seditious conspiracy case accusing Proud Boys national chairman Enrique Tarrio and four lieutenants of plotting to forcibly stop the transfer of power from Trump to President Biden.

The Proud Boys were "lined up behind Donald Trump and willing to commit violence on his behalf," prosecutor Conor Mulroe told jurors. "These defendants saw themselves as Donald Trump's army, fighting to keep their preferred leader in power no matter what the law or the courts had to say about it."

The prosecution's words underscore how the Justice Department has worked throughout the trial to link the violence on Jan. 6, 2021, to the rhetoric and actions of the former president. Prosecutors have repeatedly shown jurors a video clip of Trump telling the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by" during his first presidential debate with Biden.

Tarrio is one of the top targets of the Justice Department's investigation of the riot, which erupted at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Tarrio wasn't in Washington, D.C., that day but is accused of orchestrating an attack from afar.

Defense attorneys say there is no evidence of a conspiracy or a plan for Proud Boys to attack the Capitol.

Nicholas Smith, attorney for former Proud Boys chapter leader Ethan Nordean, said prosecutors built their case on "misdirection and innuendo." Smith accused prosecutors of repeatedly playing the clip of Trump from the debate to try to manipulate jurors.

"Does that prove some conspiracy by the men here?" Smith asked jurors. "We all know it doesn't."

Seditious conspiracy, a Civil War-era charge that is rare and can be difficult to prove, carries a potential sentence of up to 20 years in prison. The Proud Boys also face other serious charges.

Mulroe said a conspiracy can be an unspoken and implicit "mutual understanding, reached with a wink and a nod."

The Justice Department has already secured seditious conspiracy convictions against the founder and members of another far-right extremist group, the Oath Keepers. But this is the first major trial involving leaders of the far-right

> 'Let's call this what it is ... a violent gang that came together to use force against its enemies.'
>
> — Conor Mulroe, prosecutor in seditious conspiracy case against members of Proud Boys

Proud Boys, a neofascist group of self-described "Western chauvinists" that remains a force in mainstream Republican circles.

The foundation of the government's case, which started with jury selection in January, is a trove of messages that Proud Boys leaders and members privately exchanged in encrypted chats — and publicly posted on social media — before, during and after the Jan. 6 attack.

The messages show Proud Boys celebrating when Trump, a Republican, told the group to "stand back and stand by" during his first debate with Biden, a Democrat. After the 2020 election, they raged online for weeks about baseless claims of a stolen election and what would happen when Biden took office.

"If Biden steals this election, [the Proud Boys] will be political prisoners," Tarrio posted on Nov. 16, 2020. "We won't go quietly ... I promise."

Jurors also saw the string of gleeful messages that Proud Boys members posted during the Jan. 6 riot. A group of Proud Boys marched to the Capitol that day. Some entered the building after the mob of Trump supporters overwhelmed police lines.

"Make no mistake," Tarrio wrote in one message. "We did this."

Prosecutors showed multiple videos from Jan. 6 during their closing statements, including one that appeared to show defendant Zachary Rehl spraying police officers with pepper spray outside the Capitol. Confronted with the images during his testimony earlier in the trial, Rehl said he didn't remember doing such a thing and couldn't tell whether it was him. Mulroe said the images show "he did it and he lied under oath about it."

Tarrio, a Miami resident, Nordean and Rehl are on trial with Joseph Biggs and Dominic Pezzola. Nordean, of Auburn, Wash., was a Proud Boys chapter president. Biggs, of Ormond Beach, Fla., was a self-described Proud Boys organizer. Rehl was president of a Proud Boys chapter in Philadelphia. Pezzola was a Proud Boys member from Rochester, N.Y.

Tarrio was arrested in Washington, D.C., two days before the Jan. 6 riot on charges that he burned a church's Black Lives Matter banner during an earlier march in the city. Tarrio heeded a judge's order to leave the nation's capital after his arrest.

The defense attorneys called several current and former Proud Boys to the stand, trying to portray the group as a drinking club that engaged in violence only for self-defense against anti-fascist activists.

Rehl, the first defendant to testify, said the group had "no objective" that day. Pezzola testified that he got "caught up in the craziness" and acted alone on Jan. 6 when he used a riot shield stolen from a police officer to smash a Capitol window.

The prosecutor told jurors that the Proud Boys leaders wanted to stop Congress from certifying Biden's victory "by any means necessary, including force."

"You want to call this a drinking club? You want to call this a men's fraternal organization? Ladies and gentlemen, let's call this what it is ... a violent gang that came together to use force against its enemies," Mulroe said.

Key witnesses for prosecutors included two former Proud Boys members who pleaded guilty to riot-related charges and are cooperating with the government in the hopes of getting lighter sentences.

The first, Matthew Greene, testified that group members were expecting a "civil war" as they grew increasingly angry about the election results. The second, Jeremy Bertino, testified that he viewed the Proud Boys as leaders of the conservative movement and as "the tip of the spear" after the November 2020 election.

The Proud Boys' defense mirrored arguments made by lawyers for members of the Oath Keepers, who were separately charged with seditious conspiracy. They, too, said there was no evidence of a plan for members to attack the Capitol.

Over the course of two Oath Keepers trials, prosecutors secured seditious conspiracy convictions against Rhodes and five other members, and three defendants were acquitted of the charge. Those three, however, were convicted of obstructing Congress' certification of Biden's electoral victory.

Kunzelman and Whitehurst write for the Associated Press. AP writer Alanna Durkin Richer in Boston contributed to this report.

Transgender lawmaker in Montana silenced again as supporters erupt

By Amy Beth Hanson and Sam Metz

HELENA, Mont. — Republican legislative leaders in Montana persisted in forbidding Democratic transgender lawmaker Zooey Zephyr from participating in debate for a second week as her supporters brought the House session to a halt Monday — chanting "Let her speak!" from the gallery before they were escorted out.

In the initial moments after proceedings were paused Monday afternoon, Zephyr defiantly hoisted a nonfunctioning microphone into the air as her supporters interrupted proceedings for nearly half an hour after Republicans denied her requests to speak on a proposal that would have restricted when children could change the names and pronouns they use in school and required their parents' consent.

The interruption is the latest development in a three-day fight over Zephyr's remarks against lawmakers who support a ban on gender-affirming care. Zephyr, who is transgender and a first-term Democrat representative from Missoula, hasn't been allowed to speak on the statehouse floor since Thursday because she told her Republican colleagues last week they would have "blood on their hands" if they banned gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth.

Zephyr's supporters were escorted from the gallery above the state House floor, including several by force. Leaders cut the sound on the video feed and Zephyr remained on the floor holding her microphone. Zephyr did not return after lawmakers reconvened and wrote on Twitter that she would be back after showing "support for those who were arrested defending democracy."

Zephyr told the Associated Press she was headed to the county jail with the half-dozen protesters who were arrested.

The display followed a promise Zephyr made earlier on Monday, when she told supporters on the statehouse steps that she planned to continue speaking forcefully against legislation that members of the transgender community, including herself, consider matters of life and death.

"I was sent here to speak on behalf of my constituents and to speak on behalf of my community. It's the promise I made when I got elected and it's a promise that I will continue to keep every single day," Zephyr said before walking into the House chamber.

Supporters waved pride flags and chanted "Let her speak!" while she connected the transgender community's plight against gender-affirming care bans to the political fights animating other marginalized groups throughout the United States.

"When those communities who see the repercussions of those bills have the audacity to stand up and say, 'This legislation gets us killed,' those in power aren't content with just passing those hateful harmful bills," she said. "What they are demanding is silence. We will not be complicit in our eradication."

Ban proponents see Zephyr's remarks as unprecedented and personal in nature. She and her supporters say they accurately illustrate the stakes of the legislation under discussion, arguing that restricting gender-affirming care endangers transgender youth, who many studies suggest suffer disproportionately from depression and suicidality.

The standoff is the latest example of emergent discussions around civility, decorum and how to discuss political issues many perceive as life and death.

Zephyr was silenced and deliberately misgendered by some Republican lawmakers in response to her charge last week. She planned to keep trying to speak on the House floor Monday despite Republican leaders insisting that wouldn't happen until she apologizes. House Speaker Matt Regier and his Republican colleagues indicated they had no plans to back down. Near the start of the proceedings Monday, they pushed an item Zephyr requested to speak on to the end of the agenda.

After speaking and before the House convened, Zephyr entered the crowd gathered at the statehouse to support her stand. A 21-year-old from a small southwest Montana town teared up as he told her about his fears of coming out as trans in his community. Others hugged her, thanked her for fighting and apologized that she had to do so.

Katy Spence, a constituent of Zephyr's who drove to the Capitol from Missoula on Monday, said the standoff was about censoring ideas, not decorum.

"She's been silenced because she spoke the truth about what these anti-trans bills are doing in Montana — to trans youth especially," she said of Zephyr.

Months after Zephyr became the first openly transgender woman elected to the Montana Legislature, the state joined a long list of legislatures passing new restrictions on transgender kids. Legislation this year has addressed issues including the healthcare they can access, the sports teams they can play on and the names they can go by. Though proceedings have been subjected to heated debate in more than a dozen statehouses, Zephyr's standoff with GOP leaders has given the legislative battles over transgender kids newfound attention.

The dispute started April 18 when the House was debating Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte's proposed amendments to a measure banning gender-affirming care for minors. Zephyr spoke up in reference to the body's opening prayer.

"I hope the next time there's an invocation, when you bow your heads in prayer, you see the blood on your hands," she said.

House Majority Leader Sue Vinton, a Republican, immediately called Zephyr's comments inappropriate and disrespectful. That evening, a group of conservative lawmakers known as the Montana Freedom Caucus demanded Zephyr's censure and deliberately referred to her using male pronouns in their letter and a tweet. That's known as misgendering — using pronouns that don't match a person's gender identity.

Zephyr previously upset legislative leaders with emotional testimony earlier this session.

The bill banning gender-affirming care for minors is awaiting Gianforte's signature. He has indicated he will sign it. The bill calls for it to take effect on Oct. 1, but the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal have said they will challenge it in court.

Hanson and Metz write for the Associated Press.

Charging decisions in Georgia election probe set for summer

By Kate Brumback

ATLANTA — The prosecutor in Atlanta who is investigating whether then-President Trump and his allies illegally interfered in the 2020 election in Georgia said Monday she expects to announce charging decisions this summer.

Fulton County Dist. Atty. Fani Willis wrote in a letter to Sheriff Pat Labat that she expects to announce the decisions during the court term that runs from July 11 to Sept. 1 and urged "heightened security." She said she was notifying Labat so he would have time to prepare for adequate security around the courthouse.

"Open-source intelligence has indicated the announcement of decisions in this case may provoke a significant public reaction," Willis wrote, adding that this may include "acts of violence that will endanger the safety of our community."

The letter was first reported by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which reported that similar ones were sent to Atlanta's police chief and the head of the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency.

The Atlanta Police Department confirmed receipt of a letter from Willis and said it would "continue to monitor the potential for unrest throughout our city."

"We stand ready to respond to demonstrations to ensure the safety of those in our communities and those exercising their 1st Amendment right, or to address illegal activity, should the need arise," a department statement said.

Willis has been investigating whether Trump and his allies broke any laws as they tried to overturn his election loss to Democrat Joe Biden in Georgia.

She opened the investigation in early 2021, shortly after a recording of a phone call between Trump and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger was made public. In that call, Trump suggested that the top elections official "find" the votes needed to overturn his loss in the state.

It has become clear since then that the scope of her investigation has expanded far beyond that call.

Trump, who last fall announced a 2024 bid for the White House, already faces criminal charges in New York. A Manhattan grand jury in March indicted him on 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up hush-money payments to a porn actor during the 2016 presidential election.

New York police said ahead of his arraignment there that they were ready for protests by the former president's supporters, who believe charges against him are politically motivated. While hundreds did show up, fears that unruly crowds would cause chaos proved unfounded.

Meanwhile, in Washington, federal grand juries are investigating efforts by Trump and his allies to undo the results of the 2020 presidential election and the potential mishandling of classified documents by the former president at his Florida estate. It's not clear when those probes — both overseen by a special counsel — might conclude or if anyone will be charged.

Brumback writes for the Associated Press.

Tucker Carlson fired by Fox News amid bias suit

[**Carlson,** from A1]
give misleading answers in the Dominion Voting Systems defamation case against the network. Fox News denied the claim and said she was terminated for disclosing privileged company information.

In a statement, attorneys for Grossberg suggested her suit was a key factor in Carlson's exit.

"Tucker Carlson's departure from Fox News is, in part, an admission of the systemic lying, bullying and conspiracy-mongering claimed by our client, former top producer Abby Grossberg," said Tanvir Rahman, one of Grossberg's attorneys. "Mr. Carlson and his subordinates remain individual defendants in the [Southern District of New York] case, and we look forward to taking their depositions under oath in the very near term."

Murdoch also was said to be concerned about Carlson's coverage of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. The host has promoted the conspiracy theory that it was provoked by government agents, and Carlson has called Ray Epps — an Arizona man who participated in the storming of the Capitol but did not enter the building — an FBI plant, without presenting any evidence.

Epps was interviewed Sunday on "60 Minutes" and said he has been subjected to death threats as a result of Carlson's statements about him. The FBI told "60 Minutes" that Epps has never worked for the agency.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) sparked a backlash among Democrats and others when he granted Carlson exclusive access to thousands of hours of surveillance footage from the Jan. 6 attack.

Carlson's ouster was not part of the $787.5-million settlement Fox News agreed to pay to Dominion last week, according to a representative for Dominion. Dominion accused Fox of knowingly making false claims related to the 2020 election.

However, some of the comments that Carlson had made about Fox News management in communications that turned up in the discovery process for the case may have played a role in his downfall.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA Getty Images

SOME OF THE comments Tucker Carlson made about Fox News management in communications that turned up in a court case may have played a role in his downfall. Above, Carlson at a Washington event in 2019.

"We devote our lives to building an audience, and they let Chris Wallace and Leland f— Vittert wreck it," Carlson texted in a group conversation with fellow hosts Laura Ingraham and Sean Hannity after the 2020 election.

Vittert was a Fox News reporter who was frequently criticized by Trump and now works at NewsNation. Wallace moderated the first 2020 presidential debate, which was a disaster for Trump.

Carlson also sent texts critical of Fox News correspondents who fact-checked the election fraud claims on the network, even though he did not believe them himself.

Carlson was by far the most popular host on Fox News, averaging more than 3 million viewers a night.

But he also brought controversy to the network on a regular basis with his right-wing views on immigration and race, which alienated advertisers.

He was strident on illegal immigration across the Southern border, once saying undocumented people were making the nation "poorer and dirtier and more divided."

He was particularly critical of the Black Lives Matter movement after the police killing of George Floyd in 2020. He sowed doubt about the circumstances of Floyd's death and said Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer convicted of taking his life, was subjected to a "lynching" by the media.

Carlson's 8 p.m. Eastern time slot will be filled by rotating Fox News personalities until a new host is named, the company said.

Carlson's departure will test the Fox News formula that has enabled the most-watched cable network to sustain its popularity even when it loses big-name talent.

Fox News has remained a dominant leader, ahead of CNN and MSNBC by a wide margin, despite personnel changes over the years.

O'Reilly had the highest ratings of any Fox News personality when he exited.

Carlson never reached the same ratings heights after he replaced the star, but he remained appointment viewing. "The Five," a roundtable program that airs at 5 p.m. Eastern, now has the largest audience on cable news, according to Nielsen data.

Carlson, who did not respond to a request for comment, has now been fired by all three cable news networks, having been pushed out from his previous stints at CNN and MSNBC.

Carlson's dismissal comes after one of the most successful career reinventions in TV history.

He first emerged on cable news as a bow-tied, libertarian thinker skilled at turning a phrase. Throughout his early career, he was liked by colleagues and known for taking direction, according to people who worked with him at the time.

But he was booted from CNN, where he was co-host of the debate show "Crossfire," and then MSNBC, which gave him a prime-time show before it took a sharp turn to progressive political talk.

Comedian Jon Stewart ridiculed Carlson to his face on CNN, telling him that "Crossfire," was "hurting America." Carlson was told by one network boss that he was too fat.

Bruised by those experiences, Carlson believed Fox News was his last chance at a successful TV career.

As Trump changed the rules on political discourse in his 2016 campaign for the White House, Carlson put the populist outrage formula on steroids in his cable news commentary after he took over for O'Reilly.

Carlson tapped into right-wing anger over immigration policy. He promoted the idea that Democratic immigration policy was about changing "the demographics of the country" — in other words replacing white people.

Such remarks made Carlson radioactive to big brand sponsors who abandoned the program. Commercial breaks on "Tucker Carlson Tonight" were filled with blurbs from MyPillow and direct-to-consumer advertisers less sensitive to the program's content.

Carlson was not always predictable, another reason why viewers were drawn to him. He was the first Fox News host to take the threat of COVID-19 seriously, even warning Trump about it in a personal conversation at Mar-a-Lago.

But Carlson eventually used his program to give a regular platform to coronavirus vaccine skeptics who had a hold on the Make America Great Again crowd.

During a Newsmax interview that aired late Monday, Trump said he was "shocked" by news of Carlson's firing. "He's a very good person and a very good man and very talented, as you know, and he had very high ratings," Trump said.

Carlson was not always a political true believer, however, as evidenced by the texts and emails gathered in discovery for the Dominion case.

Although Carlson fed his viewers what they wanted to hear, his private texts to colleagues expressed disdain for Trump in the weeks after the 2020 election when the former president was spreading lies about voter fraud.

"What he's good at is destroying things," Carlson texted to a producer on Nov. 5, 2020. "He's the undisputed world champion of that. He could easily destroy us if we play it wrong."

In another text just days before the Jan. 6 riot, Carlson said of Trump: "I hate him passionately. We're all pretending we've got a lot to show for it, because admitting what a disaster it's been is too tough to digest. But come on. There really isn't an upside to Trump."

Mediasphere shock waves show the power of cable news

[**Ali,** from A1]
nal of just how powerful TV news and its anchors remain, even in a world that's supposedly all about streaming and social media.

No matter how much social media has outflanked cable news as the 24/7 news source of choice, cable still has the potency to create and promote the personalities that become the "face" of the news. Monday's sackings exposed the extent of cable television's influence, as well as the limits of its instability.

Millions of Americans still rely on "trusted" voices to deliver their nightly news, and in today's bifurcated views on politics, culture and even basic facts, that often means whomever best reinforces what we already believe. Whether it's the Big Lie or Black Lives Matter, cable TV has it covered with hosts who can interpret the news through any given lens. It's a far cry from the comparatively objective broadcasts of Walter Cronkite or Judy Woodruff, or the dispatches from an early CNN pioneer, anchor Bernard Shaw.

Much of today's cable news is front-loaded with opinion, various levels of bombast and, if you're Fox News, intentional misinformation. It's a programming model designed to help it survive and thrive in a highly competitive field, where deeply partisan "news" sites, TikTok, Facebook and everything else that pops up in our feeds and notifications vie for our attention and cut into time that could be spent watching Fox, CNN or MSNBC.

But the erasure of the line between reportage and commentary, between host and journalist, means cable stars are much more prone to flaming out in controversy, and that's partly what we saw Monday. And, let's be clear, the cases are very different.

Carlson's bully tactics were his on-air superpower. The more he targeted Nancy Pelosi, immigrants or Dominion voting machines — thus touting ideas like the "great replacement" theory and election fraud — the higher the ratings. But behind the scenes, his bluster and hubris were not a financial boon. In fact, they turned out to be a liability.

Sources told the Los Angeles Times that Carlson was forced out by Fox Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch after a discrimination lawsuit filed by Abby Grossberg. A producer, Grossman was fired by the network last month after she alleged she was bullied by the host and subjected to sexist and antisemitic comments.

Lemon's firing appears to have been connected with an ongoing pattern of misogynistic comments and actions. His downfall began last February, when, on "CNN This Morning," he commented on a speech made by Nikki Haley, the former governor of South Carolina and United Nations ambassador. Haley, 51, a Republican presidential hopeful, called for mandatory mental competency tests for politicians over the age of 75.

"This whole talk about age makes me uncomfortable," said Lemon. "I think it's the wrong road to go down. ... Nikki Haley isn't in her prime, sorry. A woman is considered to be in their prime in their 20s and 30s and maybe 40s."

"Prime for what?" asked co-host Poppy Harlow. "Are you talking about prime for, like, childbearing? Or prime for being president?"

It's unclear what transpired at CNN in the months leading to Monday's announcement, but no doubt that will emerge somewhere in the deluge of coverage.

The shock waves from both firings are likely to reverberate for some time. After long tenures on the air, Carlson and Lemon were dropped at the snap of a finger, during a particularly rocky time for TV news outlets that aren't taking advantage of the relative lack of competition among those that cater to the right and far right. After Chris Licht took over as CEO, CNN has been trying in recent months to pick up more red-state viewers, and it has been an awkward, uncomfortable dance at best.

However, prophecies about cable news taking its last breath have not come true — yet. Last week's story about the demise of BuzzFeed News, a digital outlet that promised to modernize the way we gather, disseminate and consume information — arguably a more consequential event in the industry — garnered far less media coverage than the tumble of Carlson and Lemon.

They are (or were) among the most recognizable faces of national television news, a medium that has been declared dead countless times yet still holds more sway than everything that has arrived to replace it. At least for now.

Calif. school board members take Twitter case to high court

Public officials dispute 9th Circuit ruling that they violated couple's lst Amendment rights.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to hear an appeal from two San Diego-area school board members and decide whether public officials who take to social media are free to block their critics.

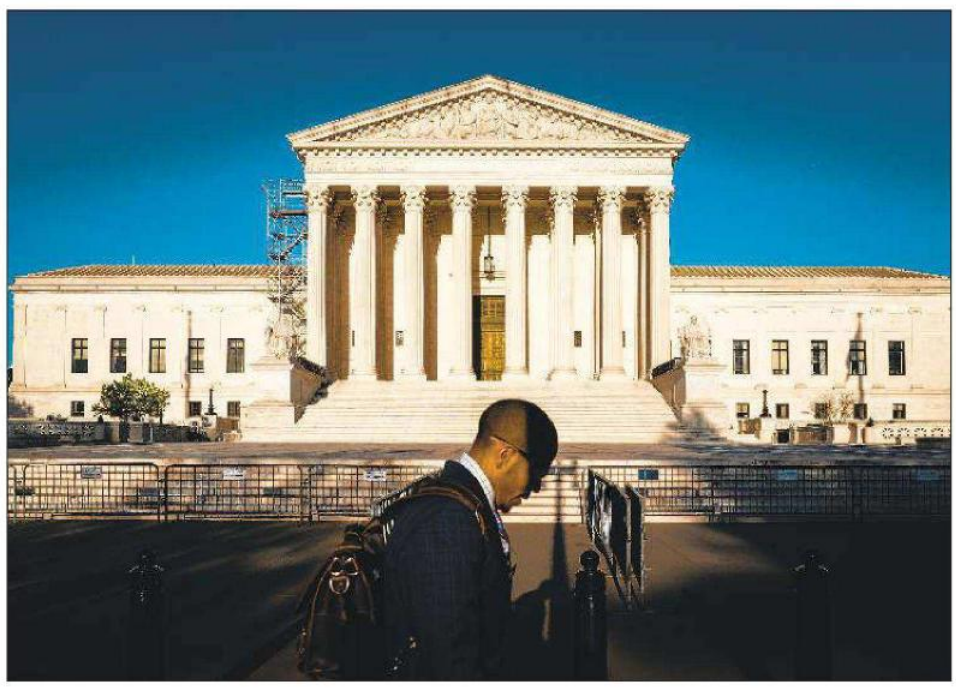
At issue is whether their Facebook or Twitter accounts are private and personal, or instead become public platforms when officials use them to speak about public business.

Former President Trump faced a similar lawsuit when he blocked critics from his Twitter account, and he lost before a federal appeals court in New York that said he had violated their free-speech rights. But that case was dismissed before the Supreme Court could rule because Trump had left office.

Now the justices will decide the issue in a case brought by two parents in Poway, a city in the San Diego area, who regularly contacted members of the school board to "express their concerns regarding important topics such as mismanagement and racist bullying."

Christopher and Kimberly Garnier grew up there, graduated from the public schools and had their three children in school.

But school board members Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff and T.J. Zane decided they had seen enough of what they described as "repetitious and non-responsive comments" from the couple. Their lawyer told the court "Christopher made the same comment on 42 different posts by O'Connor-Ratcliff and the same reply on 226 of her tweets."



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

JUSTICES WILL hear an appeal from Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff and T.J. Zane, San Diego-area school board members who blocked two frequent critics online.

When the two board members blocked the Garniers from their Facebook and Twitter accounts, the Garniers sued in federal court alleging a violation rights under the 1st Amendment.

They won before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the board members had turned their social media accounts into public forum.

"They clothed their pages in the authority of their offices and used their pages to communicate about their official duties," Judge Marsha Berzon said.

The board members urged the Supreme Court to hear their case and overturn the 9th Circuit's decision. They argued they were expressing their personal views on social media, and their Facebook or Twitter accounts did not speak for the school districts.

Their appeal also argued that a ruling in favor of the Garniers "will have the unintended consequence of creating less speech if the social-media pages of public officials are overrun with harassment, trolling, and hate speech, which officials will be powerless to filter."

The court said it would hear the case of O'Connor-Ratcliff vs. Garnier in the fall.

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

AN ESTATE in Corcoran, Calif., was flooded last month. After a series of storms, the once-dry Tulare Lake has reemerged in recent weeks and left some ranches and farmlands underwater. More flooding is feared.

Heat set to bake Sierra Nevada

[**Snowmelt,** from A1]
ing to the National Weather Service.

"It does look like there's a pretty good chance of there being a flood through Yosemite National Park by Thursday through possibly even Monday of next week," said Andy Bollenbacher, a meteorologist with the weather service in Hanford.

The river site is currently measuring around 7.5 feet. At 10 feet, the east end of Yosemite Valley will begin to flood, and at 12.5 feet, major roads in the valley will be flooded and closed to traffic. The weather service has issued a flood watch in the park from early Thursday until Tuesday morning.

Several other river locations were at the monitor stage on Monday, indicating a potential for minor flood conditions in the coming days. Among them were the Merced River at Stevinson, the San Joaquin River at Newman, Patterson and Vernalis, and the Tuolumne River at Modesto.

Bollenbacher said the heat wave will be driven by a ridge of high pressure that is expected to build rapidly over the San Joaquin Valley. While the valley floor will be warmest, elevations as high as 7,000 and 8,000 feet could see temperatures in the mid-60s during the day and upper 30s at night, above freezing.

"That's going to allow for some of that snowmelt and runoff to continue through the night," he said.

The weather service has also issued a flood watch in portions of California and western Nevada along the eastern Sierra, including the Lake Tahoe area. The East Fork Carson River at Gardnerville is expected to surpass its flood stage, 14 feet, around Saturday morning, and the agency is warning that streams, creeks and rivers will run high, fast and cold.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is particularly concerned about flooding along the eastern Sierra, as it threatens to erode portions of the Los Angeles Aqueduct — the city's water lifeline to the Owens Valley.

State officials on Monday said thousands of emergency personnel have been deployed across California in response to this year's flooding, and resources will continue to be made available to respond to local conditions. Such efforts may include pre-positioning firefighters and emergency response crews, readying shelter beds for evacuation centers or laying rocks and sandbags, said Brian Ferguson, deputy director of crisis communication for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

"Our goal right now, while the sun is outside, before the water comes down the mountain, is to take early proactive steps to really mitigate against the runoff from this historic snowpack," Ferguson said.

The state is working closely with local officials in Kings, Kern, Tulare and Fresno counties, which are "certainly the area of concern for this particular disaster," Ferguson said, although he noted that other parts of the state are still dealing with flood risks, debris flows and other secondary impacts from this year's storms.

The state's dam operators have also been making strategic releases from reservoirs to make room for incoming flows and are expected to face more challenges as the snowmelt begins in earnest.

State climatologist Mike Anderson said many reservoir outflows could double over the course of the coming week.

The Pine Flat Dam along the King's River — the largest of the dams in the Tulare Lake Basin — has been making flood releases for the last month and is at 46% capacity, he said. Its current outflow of 12,500 cubic feet per second is expected to double with the heat.

Though Anderson said reservoir management should help "mitigate the consequences downstream," local officials said levees will continue to be stressed, and upstream releases could put pressure on lower systems.

"We are urging residents to stay clear of the rivers because we are still releasing a lot of water from our local reservoirs in preparation for the snowmelt," said Carrie Monteiro, spokeswoman for the Tulare County Emergency Operations Center. "We're trying to get that water through the channels, so that if we do have a fast, rapid snowmelt, we have capacity in the reservoirs prepared and ready to capture that."

The county has ordered residents to stay off the Tule, St. John's and Kings rivers, she said. Officials are also asking residents to leave sandbags in place and stay vigilant for the foreseeable future.

"We want people to remain alert. We have high flows on our waterways, and these are not normal flows that we have seen in any other years," Monteiro said. She encouraged residents to register for the county's emergency alert system, AlertTC, to be notified in case of an immediate threat.

State officials said they are also working to minimize downstream impacts by diverting more flows into recharge basins, or allowing more water to seep into the ground to help replenish groundwater supplies.

"It's not going to eliminate all the flood risks downstream, but it will minimize and actually hopefully alleviate some of the stress along the water bodies," said Paul Gosselin, deputy director of sustainable groundwater management at the California Department of Water Resources.

Officials have diverted about 55,000 acre-feet of water since March, he said. (An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons). The department has also initiated an emergency effort to provide additional pumps to local agencies that have already reached their capacity for such diversions.

The effort is "hopefully going to provide some additional recharge, but again, the primary emphasis is to reduce the risk to downstream communities," Gosselin said.

An emergency declaration from Gov. Gavin Newsom and a presidential disaster declaration signed by the White House in early April remain in effect and will continue to enable additional assistance for disaster preparation, response and recovery, officials said.

Ferguson, of the Office of Emergency Services, said some parts of the state are in all three phases of that process simultaneously, which is "very unique in the history of our state."

"This has been a very active and challenging emergency response that we've been underway with since January," he said. "It really will continue to be ongoing, because of the snowpack, well into our summer months."

Resident fires at delivery driver; probe underway

Prosecutor in Florida to consider charges in April 15 shooting that rattled Instacart duo.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A Florida prosecutor has ordered an investigation into a recent shooting in which a homeowner opened fire on a couple who mistakenly drove on his property during a late-night grocery delivery.

No one was wounded by the gunfire, and police closed the case without consulting the state attorney's office.

The gunman told police that the car was being driven erratically, struck his leg and made him fear for himself and his son.

In a statement, Broward County State Atty. Harold Pryor said police investigators never contacted his office about the April 15 shooting in Southwest Ranches that put at least two bullets into the car driven by Waldes Thomas Jr., 19, who was with his girlfriend, Diamond Darville, 18.

Pryor said his staff members were unaware of the shooting until they were contacted Friday by a WTVJ-TV reporter who interviewed the couple. The Davie Police Department has a contract with Southwest Ranches to provide service.

"I contacted the Davie Police Department to request a full investigation," Pryor said Friday, adding that his prosecutors will decide whether charges should be filed.

Davie police declined to comment Sunday. In his report, the lead detective wrote that without video, he couldn't determine whether a crime occurred.

"Each party appeared justified in their actions based on the circumstances they perceived," the report concluded.

The shooting happened on an unlighted street in a semirural neighborhood at a home sitting on 2 acres.

According to the police report, Thomas and Darville got lost while delivering groceries for Instacart shortly before 10 p.m.

They were on the phone with their customer when Thomas turned their 2014 Honda Civic into an area where the homeowner stored equipment for his excavation business. The address the couple were looking for was across the street.

The shooter and the couple gave investigators conflicting reports about what happened next.

The homeowner told officers that he asked his 12-year-old son to tell the driver to leave but soon heard the boy yelling for help.

The father said he saw the car driving erratically, banging into logs and boulders, so he told his son to run.

He said the car then drove toward him and ran over his foot. Saying he feared for his life and his son's, the man drew his handgun and fired at the car's tires, but it sped away. He then called police.

An officer found Thomas and Darville parked nearby. When he asked what happened, they said, "We just got shot at."

He said Darville was crying and Thomas appeared "extremely nervous and scared." The officer said there were two bullet holes in the car's bumper, and one tire was flat.

The couple told police they thought that they were at the right house, then tried to leave after the boy told them they weren't.

Thomas said he put the car into reverse and hit a boulder, which was when the shooter approached "aggressively."

Thomas said he heard shots and drove away. Darville said she saw the shooter pull his gun and fire.

"I said, 'We got to go, we got to go,' " Darville told WTVJ. "I was scared — I'm not going to lie."

The Associated Press is not naming the property resident because he has not been charged with a crime. His phone rang unanswered, and he did not return a text message Sunday seeking comment.

Police said they returned the shooter's gun after closing the case.

The shooting in the upscale Fort Lauderdale suburb was the latest in a spate of similar cases across the United States in which people have mistakenly turned onto the wrong property or gotten in the wrong car. One person has been killed, and others have been seriously wounded.

Officer who shot Black driver freed from prison

Kim Potter served 16 months in the death of Daunte Wright in Minnesota in 2021.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHAKOPEE, Minn. — Kim Potter, the Minnesota police officer who mistook her gun for a Taser and killed Daunte Wright in 2021, was released from prison early Monday.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections said Potter was set free about 4 a.m., the timing unannounced "out of an abundance of caution." The department had confirmed Friday that she would be released Monday but declined to say at what time because of security concerns.

Potter, a white officer for the Brooklyn Center Police Department in suburban Minneapolis, fatally shot Wright, who was Black, during a traffic stop in April 2021. The shooting happened during the trial of Derek Chauvin, the officer who killed George Floyd, and Wright's death set off several days of protests.

Potter was released from the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee and will be on supervised release until Dec. 21, when her two-year sentence for manslaughter expires.

Corrections spokesman Andy Skoogman said in a news release that Potter will live in Wisconsin during the supervised release.

Minnesota law requires those sent to prison to serve two-thirds of their sentence behind bars and the remaining time on supervised release, Skoogman said. In Potter's case, she served 16 months of her two-year sentence.

"The term of imprisonment is set by law; there is no parole board and no time off for good behavior," Skoogman said.

The sentence from Judge Regina Chu drew strong criticism from Wright's family and their attorney, civil rights lawyer Ben Crump. The state attorney general's office had sought a sentence recommended by state guidelines of slightly more than seven years in prison.

Wright's mother, Katie Wright, said after the sentencing that Potter "murdered my son," adding: "Today the justice system murdered him all over again."

Defense attorneys argued at the sentencing hearing that Potter deserved leniency because Wright was trying to drive away and Potter had the right to defend herself.

Chu said at the time that the case was not the same as other high-profile killings, including Floyd's murder.

"This is a cop who made a tragic mistake," she said.

Wright, a 20-year-old father, was killed April 11, 2021, after Brooklyn Center officers pulled him over for having expired license tags and an air freshener hanging from his rear-view mirror. Officers discovered that he had a warrant for a misdemeanor weapons possession charge, and he was shot during a struggle as officers tried to arrest him.

Civil rights advocates say laws against hanging objects from rear-view mirrors have been used as a pretext for stopping Black motorists.

CNBC anchor's sex harassment claim leads to ouster of CEO

[**Shell,** from A1]
harassment and sex discrimination," lawyer Suzanne McKie said.

Shell's media representative was not immediately available for comment.

Comcast's Sunday announcement of Shell's ouster did not identify the woman involved in the matter. Gamble's name began circulating hours later as insiders tried to piece together the latest instance of misconduct to topple a Hollywood executive.

By late Sunday, news outlets had identified Gamble, and some prominently featured photos of her in their online reports.

McKie declined to discuss specifics contained in Gamble's confidential complaint.

"Given these circumstances, it is very disappointing that my client's name has been released and her privacy violated," McKie said.

On Sunday, Shell acknowledged that he had stepped down after three years as chief executive.

"Today is my last day as CEO of NBCUniversal," Shell said in the statement, which acknowledged "an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the company," but he did not further specify the nature of the problematic relationship.

"I'm truly sorry I let my Comcast and NBCUniversal colleagues down, they are the most talented people in the business and the opportunity to work with them the last 19 years has been a privilege," Shell said.

The Wall Street Journal first reported McKie's confirmation of the sexual harassment report.

Comcast does not plan to immediately start a search for Shell's successor. Instead, Comcast President Mike Cavanagh will take over Shell's senior executive team and lead the entertainment company in the interim, Comcast CEO Brian Roberts and Cavanagh said in a note to employees.

Shell is the latest high-powered entertainment industry player to lose his job over alleged misbehavior toward women.

Nearly three years ago, Comcast booted Ron Meyer, the longtime Universal executive, after learning that he had made hush-money payments to a young actress to cover up an old affair. At the time, Shell said in a statement that Meyer "acted in a manner which we believe is not consistent with our company policies or values."

KEVIN DIETSCH Getty Images

JEFF SHELL served as NBCUniversal chief executive for three years.

NBCUniversal also fired popular morning anchor Matt Lauer in November 2017 after a female employee complained to NBC's human resources department that the NBC News star had engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace with her on several occasions in 2014. After his firing, several other women came forward with allegations about older incidents involving Lauer.

Lauer's ouster came less than two months after allegations of misconduct by Harvey Weinstein were first exposed, giving rise to the #MeToo movement, which became a call to arms by legions of women demanding an end to sexual harassment and abusive work environments. The following year, longtime CBS chief Leslie Moonves was ousted.

Shell was named NBCUniversal's chief in January 2020 and quickly moved to put his stamp on the media company.

He also demonstrated little tolerance for bad behavior. Within months of taking the top job, Shell overhauled NBC News, which had spent years mired in controversy over its handling of the Lauer and Weinstein sexual misconduct cases as well as the infamous NBC "Access Hollywood" tapes in which then-candidate Donald Trump bragged about grabbing women by their private parts.

BUSINESS

Why Big Business hates Labor nominee

Julie Su is an effective advocate for worker rights. No wonder Republican senators are fighting her confirmation.

MICHAEL HILTZIK

CHIP SOMODEVILLA Getty Images

JULIE SU'S WORK led to a California law that made retailers and garment manufacturers legally liable if workers at their contractors' facilities did not receive minimum wage and overtime pay. Her nomination for Labor secretary is scheduled for a vote Wednesday.

Most politically aware Americans are probably familiar with the function of confirmation hearings in a Senate with a razor-thin Democratic majority: It's where qualified nominations go to die.

That may be the course followed by President Biden's nomination of Julie Su as secretary of Labor, a job she has been filling on an interim and acting basis since the departure of former secretary Marty Walsh in February.

The nomination is scheduled for a vote Wednesday by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, where its fate is uncertain. The committee held a hearing on her nomination Thursday.

By any measure, Su, 54, the Stanford- and Harvard-educated daughter of Chinese immigrants, is spectacularly qualified for the permanent position. She has been a stalwart and exceptionally effective advocate for worker rights throughout her professional career.

In 1994, fresh out of law school, Su led the first of 72 Thai garment workers to freedom after their rescue from an El Monte sweatshop and subsequent detention by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

As The Times reported then, she was "foremost among lawyers who had negotiated the workers' release on bond and found housing and jobs for them." She then served as the lead attorney in their successful battle to obtain a $4-million settlement from manufacturers and retailers for their exploitation.

The lawsuit was "path-breaking [for] going after not only the sweatshop owners and contractors who were on the front lines of exploitation, but demanding accountability from retailers and wholesalers who were involved in the production chain," Kent Wong, director of the UCLA Labor Center, told my colleague Melanie Mason.

The novel legal strategy, Wong said, led to a state law that made retailers and garment manufacturers legally liable if workers at their contractors' facilities did not receive minimum wage and overtime pay.

After her 2011 appointment by Gov. Jerry Brown as California labor commissioner, Su made cracking down on wage theft a priority.

Her first notable case as labor commissioner came in October and November 2011, when surveillance of Inland Empire distribution warehouses and off-site worker interviews resulted in a $1-million fine for payroll irregularities against a national logistics and trucking company.

In 2012, Su's team recovered more than $900,000 from San Francisco restaurateurs for unpaid minimum wages and overtime and for failure to provide itemized wage statements. In November 2012, the agency cited a public works contractor for failing to pay proper prevailing wages or overtime and falsifying payroll records to shave the number of hours actually clocked by workers.

The following year, her office won a court victory for Southern California port drivers with a ruling that some had been misclassified as independent contractors instead of employees.

As labor commissioner, Su won respect for her measured pursuit of wage thieves in business. "She's not out there trying to harass people who are trying to comply with the law," Allan Zaremberg, then-president of the California Chamber of Commerce, told The Times in 2013.

To her critics in the Senate — a group that is mostly Republican but may include such right-leaning Democrats as Joe Manchin III of West Virginia and Jon Tester of Montana — her record marks Su as unqualified to lead an agency devoted to protecting worker rights and improving working conditions for the rank and file.

The opposition is just another example of the cynical approach of conservatives to Biden's most qualified nominees. The best example is that of David Weil, whose nomination as head of the wage and hour division of the Labor Department was torpedoed by Manchin and GOP senators in April 2022.

Having served in the same job during the Obama administration, Weil had come under ferocious attack by business interests and Republicans from the start because they knew of his commitment to enforcing the labor laws on the books and the court rulings that have upheld them.

An expert in labor law at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, Weil displayed a sharp eye for how employers could cheat and abuse their employees, especially lower-income workers. His 2014 book "The Fissured Workplace" took aim at the ways that employers had been shedding their responsibilities to employees, through franchising arrangements and the hiring of labor subcontractors.

A similar cabal representing Big Business succeeded in killing the appointment of Gigi Sohn, another superbly qualified Biden nominee, to the Federal Communications Commission. Sohn withdrew her name in March, after a two-year battle for confirmation.

The attack on Su has two main threads, which played out during last week's confirmation hearing. One seeks to saddle her with blame for the chaotic management of California's pandemic unemployment program, which resulted in fraudulent payments estimated as high as $31 billion during her tenure as secretary of the state's Labor and Workforce Development Agency, which oversaw the program. The other is a bog-standard attack on her pro-worker advocacy.

Let's take them in turn.

There's no question that the pandemic unemployment program was rife with improper and fraudulent benefit payments. Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) played this card for all it was worth at the hearing.

"Your leadership of an enterprise resulted in $31 billion in fraudulent payments," he thundered, theatrically. "Do you realize what $31 billion would have meant to the people of Ukraine?"

It's hard to come to terms with the fatuous sanctimony of Romney's argument. To begin with, the pandemic unemployment program suffered from the same problems nationwide, with a total of as much as $163 billion paid out improperly, according to the Labor Department's inspector general.

If Romney and his colleagues wish to look for the root cause of those improprieties, they need to look in the mirror. They occurred at least partially because Congress effectively waived certification guidelines for the emergency benefits.

Recognizing that the states would be distributing unprecedented benefits, often to workers who had not been part of the unemployment insurance system in the past, Congress allowed applicants to self-certify their eligibility without providing proof of wages or employment status.

This was an invitation to fraud, but if anything, California's record was better than those of many other states. As Sen. Christopher S. Murphy (D-Conn.) said at the hearing, estimated improper payments came to 11% of California's total; in Tennessee, the rate was 15% and in Kansas, 27%.

"Every state had issues," Murphy said. But as California is the most populous state in the union, its raw number was destined to be the biggest.

As for trying to measure the misapplied payments to the needs of the Ukrainian people, Romney has some nerve. The $30 billion he cited is hardly a patch on the more than $1.5-trillion hole that the 2017 Republican tax cuts have blown in the federal budget. Romney wasn't in the Senate when those tax cuts were enacted, but I haven't seen any evidence that he's called for rescinding them.

The main accusation against Su is that she's "biased" in favor of workers and unions. As was true of the attack on Weil, this is fundamentally incoherent.

Employers have multiple paths to getting their concerns heard by government agencies and members of Congress. Does anyone ever argue that the Department of Commerce is "biased" in favor of employees?

Does anyone seriously contend that union contributions to politicians come close to those of corporations and business trade groups? In 2018, the most recent year for which statistics were compiled by the Brookings Institution, corporate and trade organization political action committees contributed nearly $326 million to congressional candidates. Labor contributed $54.5 million. When the phones ring on Capitol Hill, whose calls do you think members of Congress will return first?

The Republican senators questioning Su repeated, with astonishing shamelessness, the complaints of gig companies irked by her policies in California and at the Labor Department. These attacks focused on her support of AB 5, the California law enacted to codify the distinction between independent contractors and employees first articulated by the state Supreme Court.

"Miss Su was the chief enforcer of AB 5," said Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), reading from a page that might as well have been provided by Uber and Lyft, the chief opponents of AB 5.

Cassidy called AB 5 a "controversial law that dismantled the gig economy such as Uber, DoorDash, Lyft, and removed the flexibility of these individuals to work as independent contractors."

Oh, right. "Flexibility." Where have we heard that term before? It's the standard mantra of the gig companies, which have banded together as the "Flex Assn." based on their claim that what gig drivers desire more than anything else is the flexibility to set their own hours — never mind that their rights to unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, minimum wage, health coverage and other benefits are trampled in the process.

Other Republicans complained that Su is out to undermine the franchise business model. As she and Weil have both observed, franchising is a model that allows big employers to dodge their responsibilities for workers by claiming that it's not them but the mom-and-pop franchisees who are guilty of workplace violations.

Su acknowledged that franchising can provide many aspiring entrepreneurs with an entry into business ownership; she could hardly do otherwise because her own parents owned a franchised pizza restaurant.

Biden administration policy has been aimed at bringing those responsibilities home to the big employers by promoting a joint-employer concept of the relationship.

That's right and proper, but it sticks in the craw of companies such as McDonald's that rely on this dodge for profit, just as the skepticism of California and federal regulators about the misclassification of employees as independent contractors sticks in the craw of companies such as Uber and Lyft.

The attacks on Julie Su are predictable. But they prompt us to ponder once again which interests really wield power in the Senate and to ask, if these politicians aren't standing up for American workers, who do they really represent?

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik@latimes.com.

Amazon contract drivers in Palmdale join Teamsters

But the retail giant says it was already cutting ties with the newly unionized delivery partner.

BY SPENCER SOPER AND MATT DAY

More than 80 contract drivers and dispatchers who handle deliveries for Amazon Inc. have joined the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, marking the labor movement's latest attempt to gain a foothold in the company's e-commerce empire.

The drivers work for one of many Amazon delivery service partners, small businesses that rent vans, hire drivers and ferry packages for the e-commerce giant. The workers in Palmdale are joining Teamsters Local 396, the union announced Monday.

"Amazon workers are joining the Teamsters to demand more from this company, including good wages, safe working conditions and respect," said Randy Korgan, Teamsters Amazon division director and Teamsters Joint Council 42 director of organizing. "The Teamsters are coordinating nationwide with Amazon workers, allies committed to holding this corporation accountable, and our union's 1.2 million members to make sure Amazon provides the benefits and protections that working people deserve."

The 84 workers have a tentative deal with their employer, Battle-Tested Strategies, the union said. It's scheduled to be voted on in the coming weeks and includes pay raises and a grievance procedure.

The Teamsters also represent United Parcel Service drivers, who earn more and get better benefits than their Amazon counterparts.

It's hard to tell how big of an effect the move will have on Amazon, which said it was already cutting ties with the business.

Spokesperson Eileen Hards said the delivery partner "had a track record of failing to perform and had been notified of its termination for poor performance well before today's announcement. This situation is more about an outside company trying to distract from their history of failing to meet their obligations."

Johnathon Ervin, who owns Battle-Tested Strategies, said his business has delivered 10 million Amazon packages since it began in October 2019. Ervin said Amazon offered him a $75,000 payout to end his contract, but he has yet to respond.

Ervin said that he has relayed his drivers' concerns about pay and van upkeep to Amazon, but that the company hasn't done anything.

He said his average driver earns $19.75 an hour and that the Teamsters pact calls for a 30-cent raise in May.

"We are going to work out some agreements and hopefully we can bring Amazon to the table for further enhancements to the morale and welfare of our drivers," Ervin said.

The Amazon Labor Union won a historic election at an Amazon facility in New York last year — the only time a union has won the right to represent the company's U.S. workers. But the grassroots ALU was defeated in two subsequent elections by wide margins.

Amazon has refused to bargain with the union, and the company's lengthy appeals process means contract negotiations are probably a long way off.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, meanwhile, is seeking to represent workers at an Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Ala. U.S. officials found that Amazon's conduct during a 2021 vote there made a fair election impossible, but a rerun election hinges on contested ballots.

Soper and Day write for Bloomberg.

Apple notches another victory in App Store battle with Epic Games

Federal appeals court ruling largely upholds company's policies in an antitrust challenge by 'Fortnight' maker.

By Malathi Nayak and Mark Gurman

Apple won an appeals court ruling Monday upholding its App Store's policies in an antitrust challenge brought by Epic Games.

The ruling by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower-court judge's 2021 decision largely rejecting claims by Epic, the maker of "Fortnite," that Apple's online marketplace policies violated federal law because they ban third-party app marketplaces on its operating system. The appeals panel upheld the judge's ruling in Epic's favor on California state law claims.

The ruling comes as Apple has been making changes to the way the App Store operates to address developer concerns since Epic sued the company in 2020. The dispute began after Apple expelled the "Fortnite" game from the App Store because Epic had created a workaround to paying a 30% fee on customers' in-app purchases.

"There is a lively and important debate about the role played in our economy and democracy by online transaction platforms with market power," the three-judge panel said. "Our job as a federal court of appeals, however, is not to resolve that debate — nor could we even attempt to do so. Instead, in this decision, we faithfully applied existing precedent to the facts."

Apple hailed the outcome as a "resounding victory," saying nine out of 10 claims were decided in its favor.

"The App Store continues to promote competition, drive innovation, and expand opportunity, and we're proud of its profound contributions to both users and developers around the world," the company said in an emailed statement. "We respectfully disagree with the court's ruling on the one remaining claim under state law and are considering further review.

Epic had no immediate comment.

In September 2021, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers concluded that Apple's policies prevent consumers from getting cheaper prices but rejected Epic's claims that the App Store is run like a monopoly in violation of federal antitrust law.

After a three-week trial in Oakland, Rogers ordered the technology giant to allow developers of mobile applications to steer consumers to outside payment methods, granting an injunction sought by Epic. The judge, however, didn't see the need to create third-party app stores or to push Apple to revamp policies on app developer fees.

The appeals court said the lower court "erred" in defining the appropriate antitrust market but concluded that was "harmless" and Epic failed to "show its proposed market definition and the existence of any substantially less restrictive alternative means for Apple to accomplish the procompetitive justifications supporting iOS's walled garden ecosystem."

One appeals court judge dissented from that part of the ruling, saying the case should go back to Rogers to reanalyze it using the relevant market.

"Unless the correct relevant market is identified, one cannot properly assess anticompetitive effects, procompetitive justifications, and the satisfaction of procompetitive justifications through less anticompetitive means," U.S. Circuit Judge Sidney Thomas wrote.

Mark Lennihan Associated Press

APPLE HAS been making changes to the way the App Store operates to address developer concerns since Epic Games sued it in 2020. Above, an employee in 2021.

The panel said it agreed with the finding by Rogers that Epic was "injured" under California's competition laws due to Apple's previous policy that stopped app developers from steering users to outside payment methods. It directed Rogers to revisit her ruling that Epic didn't owe Apple fees it paid attorneys.

Even before Rogers ruled, Apple already was making changes to how the App Store operates to mitigate developer concerns.

One was to allow developers to "steer" consumers — in some scenarios — to make payments for subscription apps outside of Apple's own payment system. This means that so-called Reader apps, which encompass apps and services for digital newspapers and magazines, books, audio streaming and video watching, can point users to the web with a button to complete their sign-up.

That addressed a core issue within Epic's lawsuit against Apple, but the current Apple policy doesn't apply to gaming apps. Epic's software, including the hit game "Fortnite," still remains off the App Store and Apple devices, but Epic Games Chief Executive Tim Sweeney has hinted at a return to the platform in 2023.

U.S. and European authorities have taken steps to rein in Apple's stronghold over the mobile market. In response to the Digital Markets Act — a new series of laws in the European Union — Apple is planning to allow outside apps as early as next year as part of an update to the upcoming iOS 17 software update, Bloomberg News has reported.

Amid a changing legal landscape, Apple also plans to let users more easily change default settings, allow alternative web browsing engines, and open up more of its in-house features, such as Camera or Find My apps, to third-party developers.

Epic has made similar allegations about anticompetitive conduct in a lawsuit against Google over its Google Play store. The Alphabet unit has denied wrongdoing.

Nayak and Gurman write for Bloomberg.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks stuck in neutral ahead of earnings, GDP data

By Stan Choe

Wall Street remained stuck in its standstill Monday, and stocks again moved only modestly ahead of reports that could offer more direction on where the economy and corporate profits are heading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged up 3.52 points, or 0.1%, to 4,137.04 after barely budging last week. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 66.44 points, or 0.2%, to 33,875.40, while the Nasdaq composite slipped 35.25 points, or 0.3%, to 12,037.20.

Coca-Cola dropped 0.2% after reporting stronger profit and revenue for the first quarter but refraining from raising forecasts for sales and other measures for the full year. It was the only S&P 500 company to report Monday morning, but more than 170 others are scheduled to follow it this week.

The question is whether they can top the low bar that Wall Street has set for them, and what chief executives for those companies say about prospects for profits later this year. Analysts expect S&P 500 companies to report a roughly 6% drop in earnings per share from a year earlier, which would be their worst showing since the spring of 2020, when the pandemic paralyzed the economy.

Some of Wall Street's most influential companies are set to report this week, including Microsoft on Tuesday and Amazon on Thursday. Several of these tech stocks were among the heaviest weights on the market. Microsoft fell 1.4%, and Amazon dipped 0.7%.

Fox fell 2.9% after it said the popular but polarizing prime-time host Tucker Carlson was leaving Fox News. The move comes less than a week after the company reached a $787.5-million settlement over charges that it promoted lies about Dominion Voting Systems through its 2020 election coverage.

Bed Bath & Beyond was another loser, dropping 35.7% to 19 cents after filing for bankruptcy protection. The struggling retailer's stock has been on a wild ride as investors bet on whether it could successfully turn around its operations.

The majority of companies so far this earnings reporting season have topped forecasts, as is usually the case. That's partly because expectations were so low coming into it. Inflation remains high, and interest rates are much higher than a year earlier, which has hurt swaths of the economy.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,875.40	+66.44	+0.20	+2.20
S&P 500	4,137.04	+3.52	+0.09	+7.75
Nasdaq composite	12,037.20	-35.25	-0.29	+15.01
S&P 400	2,499.45	+0.62	+0.02	+2.84
Russell 2000	1,788.87	-2.64	-0.15	+1.57
EuroStoxx 50	4,399.93	-8.66	-0.20	+16.02
Nikkei (Japan)	28,593.52	+29.15	+0.10	+9.58
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	19,959.94	-115.79	-0.58	+0.90

Associated Press

The Federal Reserve has jacked up interest rates at a furious pace in hopes of undercutting high inflation. High rates can do that but only by bluntly slowing the entire economy. That raises the chances for a recession and hurts prices for investments.

Besides this week's blizzard of earnings reports, Wall Street is also waiting for the first estimate of how quickly the U.S. economy grew in the first three months of the year, among other data. Economists predict it will show a slowdown to an annual growth rate of 1.9%, down from 2.6% in the fourth quarter.

Higher interest rates have already slowed the housing market by making mortgages more expensive. Manufacturing and other areas of the economy have also lost steam, while the job market has remained remarkably resilient.

The report on the U.S. economy will be one of the final pieces of data before the Federal Reserve's next meeting, scheduled for next week. Much of Wall Street expects it to raise interest rates at least one more time before taking a pause.

Many traders are betting the Fed will have to cut rates later this year to prop up the economy. But the Fed has so far been insistent that it will hold rates high at least through the end of this year.

"The Fed seems determined to fight inflation even if a more significant slowdown arrives," Morgan Stanley strategists led by Michael Wilson wrote in a report.

High interest rates have already caused cracks in the banking system, with the second- and third-largest U.S. bank failures rocking markets last month. The worst of the crisis seems to have passed, but scrutiny remains harsh on smaller and midsize banks that seem to be under the most threat of seeing customers yank their deposits.

First Republic Bank, which has been at the center of the spotlight, reported its latest quarterly results after trading closed Monday. Its stock jumped 12.2% before the report, making it one of the biggest gainers in the S&P 500. It fell sharply in after-hours trading.

The banking industry's struggles were global, as higher interest rates worldwide pushed investors to hunt for potential weak links. Credit Suisse, a giant investment bank, said Monday that it saw nearly $69 billion in outflows during the first three months of the year. It's being swallowed by rival UBS after regulators arranged for its takeover.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.50% from 3.57% late Friday.

Choe writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Joe McDonald contributed to this report.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Students need healthier school meals

New USDA guidelines would cut sugar and sodium in cafeteria food to help curb childhood obesity.

Less sugar, lower sodium and more whole grains are among the new guidelines for school meals under consideration by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These are reasonable, necessary changes considering that about 1 in 5 U.S. children are obese, a condition that can lead to serious lifelong health consequences if it continues into adulthood.

The USDA's goal is to more closely align school meal standards with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which details ingredients for a healthy diet. For example, these guidelines call for limiting added sugars to less than 10% of daily calories. In comparison, added sugars provide about 17% of calories in school breakfasts and about 11% in school lunches. Currently, the USDA does not have guidelines limiting sugar in school meals.

Meeting the new nutritional standards will mean that schools will have to cut some products, replacing them with ones that meet the new sugar and sodium guidelines. The International Dairy Foods Assn. earlier this month indicated it would voluntarily reduce sugars in flavored milk so that children could still have the option of flavored milk.

The proposed guidelines would be implemented in phases, which is a smart approach because many school district nutrition directors worry that kids won't eat healthier meals if they are not tasty. One of the public comments submitted states: "If we change the proposed restrictions I believe we will see a significant drop in children actually eating at school. We currently struggle with getting kids to accept the current meal pattern." The USDA has already received more than 77,000 public comments on the proposed guidelines and is accepting more through May. The changes will take effect in fall 2024.

Certainly, changes aren't easy, particularly when children have become accustomed to certain types of food. It may be difficult to change kids' palates if they are used to consuming sugary drinks and high-sodium foods, such as chicken nuggets.

Still, schools have a responsibility to provide nutritionally balanced meals because the food they provide may be the only full meals that many kids will eat in a day. Obesity is more prevalent among kids in lower-income families than those with higher incomes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nutritious meals are a key part of helping level the playing field in the educational attainment of lower-income students, especially Latino and Black children. Inadequate nutrition hinders' students concentration and can also trigger absences. California public schools began offering free meals to all students beginning in the 2022-23 school year in light of rising rates of food insecurity and to destigmatize free school meals.

Obesity, which was designated a chronic disease by the National Institutes of Health in 1998, afflicts about 14.4 million children. Most kids who are obese are likely to be obese as adults. Obesity can have serious lifelong consequences leading to depression and chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and some types of cancer.

Christina House Los Angeles Times

A CHEESEBURGER with oranges, fries and chocolate milk is offered as a school lunch.

Earlier this year, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued controversial new guidelines to treat obesity in kids. Instead of leaving obesity untreated, the organization now recommends medications for kids as young as 12 and weight-loss surgery for those as young as 13. The new guidelines run counter to the idea that kids might overcome obesity on their own. It recognizes the fact that we need to change our approach to childhood obesity by treating it as a complex chronic condition.

A 2015 study in the Health Affairs journal found that improving nutrition standards in school meals were among the top three most successful and cost-effective public health solutions to childhood obesity. Researchers found that excess weight takes time to accumulate, indicating that even small changes in diet can make a difference.

Obesity is a complex disease that involves genetic, physiologic, socioeconomic and environmental contributors. However, it's clear that providing more nutritious meals to kids at schools can play an important role in addressing the epidemic of childhood obesity. It might seem difficult to make changes to the diets of kids, but healthier school meals will pay off in the long run.

There's no satisfaction in the fall of Tucker Carlson

Fox News was just protecting the bottom line, not purging a blight on American democracy.

LZ GRANDERSON

I do not take delight in Tucker Carlson's firing.

That's because I do not believe he was fired for being Tucker Carlson.

Had he been fired for being Tucker Carlson — the white nationalist apologist known for his spitfire misinformation and shameless hypocrisy — I would probably be more cheerful. But this does not appear to be a firing for behaving poorly.

Had he been fired years ago for being Tucker Carlson, instead of being elevated to TV host just before the Trump presidency began, it's doubtful the former president's lies about the 2020 election would have gained nearly as much traction. It's doubtful there would have been a $1.6-billion defamation lawsuit brought by Dominion Voting Systems against his employer. It's doubtful a twice-impeached former president would be the Republican Party's front-runner for the White House.

Carlson understood all of this, which is why he texted this to his producer Alex Pfeiffer on Nov. 5: "What [Trump's] good at is destroying things," followed by, "He's the undisputed world champion of that. He could easily destroy us if we play it wrong." And so Tucker Carlson did what he's always done for ratings: purposely mislead the largest audience in cable news while fanning the flames of racism, sexism, antisemitism and homophobia.

This is the person Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) called "the most courageous person in American media."

This is the person to whom House Speaker Kevin McCarthy decided to exclusively give thousands of hours of surveillance recordings from the Jan. 6 insurrection. This is the person who dressed down Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on his show for daring to call that "a violent terrorist attack on the Capitol."

"Of all the things that Jan. 6 was, it was definitely not a violent terrorist attack," said Tucker Carlson on air.

Yet in private in January 2021, after that attack, Carlson wrote this: "Trump has two weeks left. Once he's out, he becomes incalculably less powerful, even in the minds of his supporters. He's a demonic force, a destroyer. But he's not going to destroy us. I've been thinking about this every day for four years."

Fox News wanted him to be Tucker Carlson because it was a brand that was good for business. Keeping him on was about money then, so why wouldn't his firing be about money now? Although the Dominion settlement certainly didn't reflect well on him, it's possible his firing has more to do with a discrimination lawsuit filed by Abby Grossberg, a producer who was fired by the network last month. In the suit, she alleged she was bullied by Carlson, subjected to antisemitic comments and pushed by company lawyers to give misleading answers in the Dominion case to protect the network.

In other words: money.

This is why I do not delight in the firing.

Democracy may benefit because media mogul Rupert Murdoch has parted ways with his most popular host. It may not. Hard to tell. In any case it doesn't appear as if democracy was ever part of the equation when it came to Fox and Tucker Carlson — neither in their love affair nor in their breakup.

There's also nothing to suggest Fox's action was about doing the right thing for journalism. It's not a public service as much as self-service.

There is nothing that shows there was a change of heart at Fox, only a change in cost-benefit calculations.

The network has made that call before, when it ousted Bill O'Reilly in 2017. That was ultimately for the same reason: money — specifically because of sexual harassment allegations and settlements, certainly not for peddling hate and misinformation.

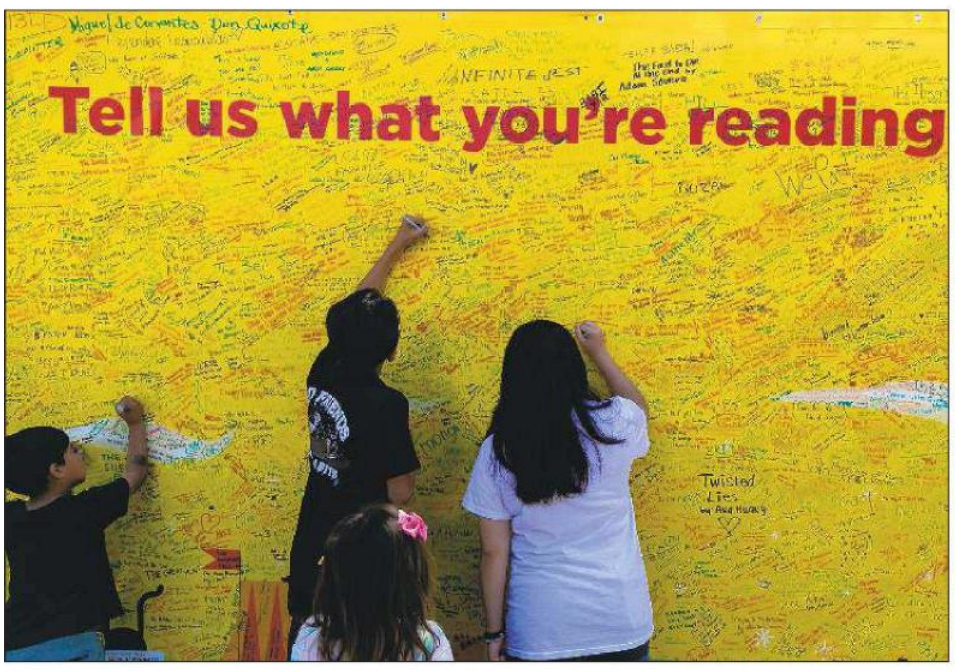
Seth Wenig Associated Press

FORMER TV PERSONAS Tucker Carlson and Donald Trump in happier days.

So I don't get my hopes up about whom Fox News will anoint as the next Tucker Carlson. Fear-mongering and appealing to our lower selves are still profitable.

The next Tucker Carlson won't have to tell the truth to keep the throne, just avoid becoming a financial liability. Judging from Murdoch's own testimony related to the Dominion case, what happens to democracy is not a concern — just a byproduct.

LETTERS



Jason Armond Los Angeles Times

ATTENDEES of the 43rd annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books write on a board asking people what they're reading on the USC campus on Sunday.

Book bans and book festivals

Re "Book bans on rise in schools, largely in GOP states," April 23

I wish Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, whose state reportedly has the second-highest number of book bans in the country, had been at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books this weekend.

He would have seen our country in all its diversity — young and old, straight and gay, cisgender and transgender, in almost every color of the rainbow, each of us created as the Bible tells us "in God's image" — wandering around the USC campus.

There, we met authors, heard them speak and asked them to sign our copies of their books, all in peaceful harmony.

Books that certainly included titles unwelcome in parts of Florida. Books that had ideas that didn't meet rigid right-wing conspiratorial standards. Some with ideas about making the world a better place, not a baking, pestilential, fossil-fueled hellhole of hate.

Daniel Fink
Beverly Hills

::

The book-banning movement seems to be limited to libraries, with little interest in banning the sales of certain titles in bookstores.

I suspect that book banning is, at least in part, an attack on libraries, an attack on being able to read books for free.

Publishers do not make much money when a school or public library orders one copy of a book. But if a book is banned, it is free publicity, and interest in reading (and buying) the book surely increases.

When Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was first banned by a library in 1885, he told his publisher, "That will sell 25,000 copies for us, sure."

Stephen Krashen
Malibu

Maybe DeSantis can use the land around Walt Disney World in Orlando to build his "Wayback Machine" amusement park.

There, people could experience Jim Crow segregation, no rights for women and the erasure of pertinent history from the school curriculum. They could visit a place where books are banned by overzealous, power-seeking politicians.

I cannot imagine a world without H.G. Wells, Margaret Atwood, Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur C. Clarke, George Orwell, Rod Serling, Ray Bradbury or all the other brilliant and imaginative writers of their ilk.

The past really is prologue, and we need to preserve the basic freedoms that so many worked hard to secure. You decide — the clock is ticking away.

Frances Terrell Lippman
Sherman Oaks

Stick to EVs or go back to gas?

Re "I'm ready to trade in my EV," Opinion, April 23

Mariel Garza's opinion piece about electric-vehicle charging inconveniences is accurate.

My family is lucky to have two EVS, one a Tesla and the other a non-Tesla. We have taken 15 road trips exceeding 1,000 miles with no problems. The Tesla charging infrastructure is robust, and more of its stations are opening to non-Tesla EVs.

What Garza describes is early adopter inconvenience, but inconvenience is relative. When we think of the inconvenience our eight grandchildren will experience in a hotter climate, we decide the early adopter inconvenience is worth it.

Michael Selna
Huntington Beach

::

Amen to Garza's lament about the situation of EV chargers.

It's all well and good that we are pushing EV adoption, but how will it work out if there isn't a similar push to get more fast chargers rolled out? They are few and far between — often filled, not working at full charging speed or not working at all.

Want to do a road trip into the mountains? Forget about it.

Like Garza, I will likely buy a plug-in hybrid as my next vehicle. Without our state and federal governments taking EV infrastructure seriously, we have to continue to rely on fossil fuel.

Pam Sciarra
Huntington Beach

::

The notion that we can just switch cars from gas to electricity reveals the flaws of a climate action strategy that preserves the automobile paradigm.

Meanwhile, progress on bus and bicycle infrastructure remains slow and tediously incremental.

Bikeway networks in particular deserve more priority and resources. Their rapid, widespread implementation in cities around the world has shown that they can attract legions of users, offsetting the need to drive everywhere. To be effective they must protect riders from traffic and take people where they need to go.

A national bikeway strategy coupled with major funding could be one of our fastest pathways to reducing the impacts of cars and meeting our climate goals.

Kent Strumpell
Los Angeles

The writer is a member of the Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee.

::

I have seen at least four different gas stations go up within a 10-mile radius of my home within the last year. Wouldn't it have been nice if those stations had also installed a few charging bays as well?

If we are going to phase out gasoline, then wouldn't it be smart for these station owners to start the transition and be able to keep themselves in business when the majority of cars are electric?

Dana Bingham
Apple Valley

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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OP-ED

How 'judge shopping' has thrown our country into chaos

Blatantly handpicking jurists who can issue national rulings fueled the abortion pill disaster

By Erwin Chemerinsky

Although the Supreme Court's ruling Friday allows the abortion pill mifepristone to remain available while the matter continues to be litigated, the case reveals underlying problems in the judicial system that must be addressed. Litigants should not be able to handpick a judge who then can issue a nationwide injunction throwing the entire country into chaos.

Mifepristone has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration since 2000 as part of a two-drug protocol that is used to terminate pregnancies. It is estimated that 54% of abortions in the United States use these drugs. Before the federal district court's order that the sale and distribution of mifepristone be stopped, never had any judge overruled the FDA's approval of a drug.

How then did we get to the brink of mifepristone being made unavailable, or being available only with great restrictions? Antiabortion activists found a way to ensure that their lawsuit would be heard by a specific judge who was known to be very hostile to abortion rights. He then used his power as a single judge to issue a nationwide injunction against the continued availability of mifepristone anywhere in the country.

There are 94 federal district courts in the U.S., with each district split into divisions. In Texas, there are four federal district courts with 27 divisions in total. In eight divisions, there is only one judge. Any case filed in that division goes automatically to that judge. In other words, the litigants know exactly who will get their case.

The only federal judge in the Amarillo division of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas is Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, a Trump appointee and former lawyer for the conservative legal group First Liberty Institute. Conservative litigators know if they file their case in federal court in Amarillo, their judge will be Kacsmaryk.

When Texas wanted to challenge President Biden's decision to end the Trump-era "Remain in Mexico" policy — which required those seeking asylum in the U.S. to remain in Mexico while their applications were being considered — Kacsmaryk was their man. In December, Kacsmaryk ruled that it was unconstitutional for clinics receiving federal funds under a law enacted in 1970 to provide contraceptives to minors without parental consent. In doing so, he ignored Supreme Court precedents that explicitly protect a fundamental right of minors to have access to contraceptives.

Kacsmaryk is not the only option for conservatives. If they file in federal court in Wichita Falls, Texas, the judge will be Reed O'Connor. He is the judge who invalidated the Obama administration's protection of transgender students, declared unconstitutional the Affordable Care Act, struck down the Indian Child Welfare Act, and blocked the military from requiring Navy SEALs to be vaccinated. And until recently, if a case was filed in Victoria, Texas, the only federal district judge in that division hearing civil cases was Drew Tipton, another Trump appointee. He too has invalidated other Biden attempts to reverse restrictive Trump-era immigration policies.

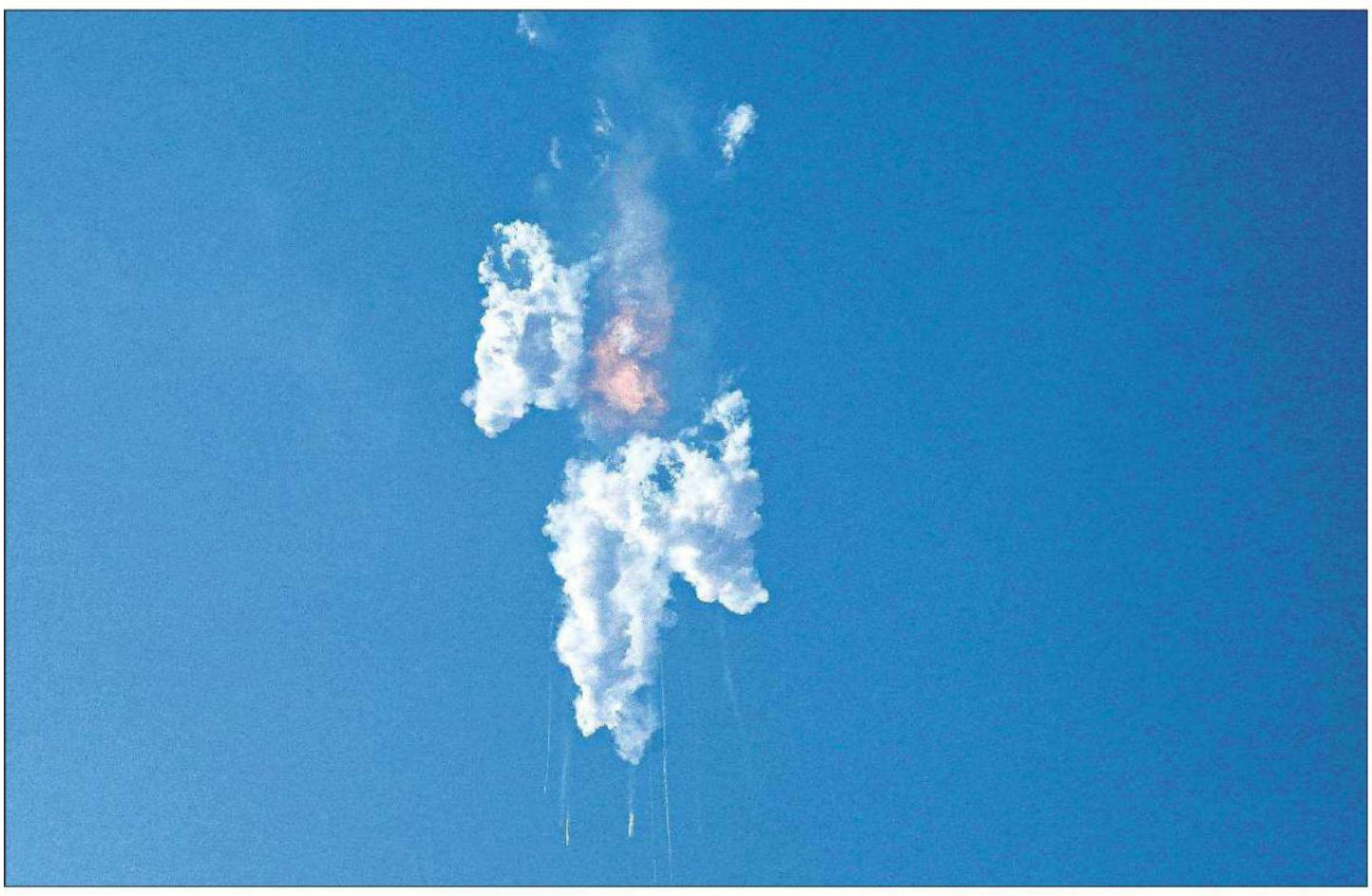
Not surprisingly, when the conservative legal group Alliance Defending Freedom wanted to end the availability of mifepristone, they chose Amarillo and Kacsmaryk's court. He did not disappoint them. He wrote a stunning opinion, stressing that the embryo should be referred to as the "unborn child" or "unborn human," relying on studies from antiabortion groups, and invoking an 1873 law to end the availability of mifepristone. He then issued a nationwide injunction stopping its availability anywhere in the country.

The matter went to three judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, two of whom are Trump appointees. These judges did not go as far as Kacsmaryk, but would have overturned the FDA's decisions to allow the drug to be used until the 10th week and to remove the requirement that mifepristone be taken in a doctor's office. The Supreme Court's decision Friday sent the matter back to the 5th Circuit and is keeping current FDA policy on mifepristone in place while the case is litigated.

We never should be in this mess. The rules should be changed to prevent such blatant judge shopping. The rules should require that there be random selection from at least 10 federal judges for any case. When there is a request for a nationwide injunction, it should be assigned randomly to any judge in that federal circuit. And it is time to rethink the power of a single federal judge to issue a nationwide injunction, deciding a constitutional issue for the entire country.

For now, mifepristone remains available and the immediate crisis has been averted. But what led to this must be fixed. Judge shopping is inconsistent with the strong federal policy in favor of random assignment of judges. It undermines any semblance of a fair judicial process.

Erwin Chemerinsky is a contributing writer to Opinion and dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law. His latest book is "Worse Than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism."



Eric Gay Associated Press

SPACEX'S STARSHIP exploded minutes after blasting off on its first test flight last week. Observers consider it a "successful failure."

Hate Elon Musk? That's OK, but root for Starship

If SpaceX's pioneering rocket isn't a 'successful success,' humanity won't be back on the moon in 2025.

By Christopher Cokinos

Elon Musk is the most morally dubious rocket pioneer since Wernher von Braun. And the most successful. With each, we can critique faults and celebrate achievements.

Von Braun, who supervised the V-2 weapon program for the Third Reich and once calculated the number of slave laborers needed for more efficient production of the system, went on to supervise America's Saturn V moon rocket. The latter was laudable. The former probably would have led to Von Braun's arrest by the Allies had we not needed his expertise.

By comparison, the oft-brilliant Musk seems merely arrested. He's widely perceived as a reactionary, thin-skinned, insensitive, sleep-deprived bully who promotes ludicrous opinions on everything from COVID to, well, pick your topic. So last week's "RUD" — or "rapid unscheduled disassembly" — of Musk's Starship rocket delighted his critics. (Of course, Starship isn't his only RUD. There's Twitter, after all.)

And yet, as founder and head of SpaceX, Musk has inspired a generation of aerospace engineers to work very hard for him because he shares their belief in the aspirational and practical value of space exploration and settlement. So do I.

Pioneering rocket reusability with its Falcon 9 rocket, SpaceX has utterly transformed the space launch industry, cutting costs and materials waste. To achieve reusability, SpaceX, ironically, literally burns through a lot of rockets as it perfects designs. This is a throwback to the early days of the Space Age. Build 'em fast, launch and learn. If they blow up — wash, rinse, repeat.

NASA now could never get away with that approach. It has to perfect its systems before the countdown. That's partly why its new Space Launch System, built by Boeing and Northrup Grumman, was oft delayed and over budget. But unlike Starship, SLS flew like a dream on its maiden voyage last year.

Starship, not so much. The massive, nearly 400-foot, retro-looking two-part craft cleared the launch pad (which will need repair and redesign) and experienced "max q," the realm of heaviest stress on the ship. But four minutes and 24 miles into the flight, Starship malfunctioned and automatically self-destructed. All 33 Raptor engines did not ignite, which is worrisome. Engineers have a lot of data to pore over from a "successful failure."

As Casey Dreier, chief policy advocate for the Pasadena-based Planetary Society, told me, "The vast scale of Starship is hard to express in words, but with massive scale comes increased complexity, presenting a whole host of novel problems to solve by SpaceX's engineers. Something as wildly ambitious as Starship has not just never been done before.... The fact that they got as far as they did on the very first flight test is remarkable."

The next time Starship launches, let's hope it will be a successful success. If it isn't, we may not be able to land the first woman and first person of color on the moon in 2025. Starship is meant to be the landing vehicle for NASA's Artemis 3 lunar South Pole mission. NASA will send four astronauts in an Orion capsule using its Space Launch System, while Starship launches to Earth orbit, refuels, flies to the moon and awaits two of the astronauts who will transfer to it for the landing.

Before that mission, SpaceX probably needs a successful suborbital launch of Starship, a successful orbital flight, development of the refueling procedure in Earth orbit and a test landing on the moon. That's a lot to accomplish in the next two years.

"I don't know if it will be ready by 2025," Dreier admits. "But what makes this novel, and what prevents me from completely writing off this timeline, is that SpaceX has simultaneously spun up a production line of Starship rockets. This enables rapid iteration, frequent tests and, most importantly, allows for failure early on ... and hopefully we'll see them improve with each attempt."

Musk is free to be an unlikable, visionary weirdo. NASA, the agency we all "own," will always be more popular than a spiky billionaire.

Not that we shouldn't call out Musk for untoward speech and behavior. If his companies break the law, they should be held to account. SpaceX gets taxpayer money, after all. Yet we can — should — also hope for SpaceX and its multiplanetary ambitions to succeed.

It's notable that scientists are salivating at the capacity of Starship. It could launch ambitious science missions and Earth-monitoring satellites because one Starship is designed to loft at least 100 tons to low-Earth orbit. That's 20% of the entire annual payload now sent into space in multiple missions.

Most observers think Starship will prove out, be built faster and launch more frequently than, say SLS, which is also a "heavy lifter" system. That's good for space exploration and for NASA. I want Starship to succeed because I believe it ultimately helps humanity nurture a vibrant, just future. On the other hand, I wouldn't mind it if Elon Musk's Twitter were to fail — for the same reason.

Christopher Cokinos' book "Still as Bright: A Backyard Journey Through the Natural and Human History of the Moon" is forthcoming in 2024.

Tucker Carlson, not just Trump, damaged conservatism

JONAH GOLDBERG

Tucker Carlson has left the building.

Carlson parted company with Fox News on Monday — reportedly fired — but he hasn't been in the building most other days over the last couple of years. That's because he rarely went into the Washington or New York bureaus. He had his own private studios in Maine and Florida, lavish bunkers from which he broadcast his infectious bunker mentality.

But he wasn't physically in his bubble on Friday. He was in Washington to give the keynote address at the Heritage Foundation's 50th anniversary gala. Tucker was a fitting choice. His first job in Washington was at Heritage, back when both he and it were stalwartly Reaganite. Heritage, which has long boasted of its influence in Washington (it was literally founded to do just that) now fancies itself as little more than a Tucker franchise, a conduit for Carlson's cable-ready populist rage.

Heritage's shift from Reaganism has been described by many as a turn to Trumpism, and it is that, of course. But it was also a turn to Tuckerism.

Indeed, most right-wing institutions that depend on a large customer or donor base have embraced a strategy of monetizing the constant stoking of crisis and paranoia as the new True Faith. Small donors are the lifeblood of the smash-mouth populism. When the facts don't lend themselves sufficiently to catastrophization, fresh ones are invented.

And Tucker was the high priest of that faith.

I quit Fox after more than a decade as a contributor when Carlson released a "documentary" for Fox Nation, a streaming service for Fox addicts who can no longer get sufficiently high off the basic cable junk. His "Patriot Purge," a farrago of deceptions, fear-mongering and "just asking questions" conspiracy theories, was put together to leave the viewer with the distinct impression that the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol was some kind of false flag or deep state operation. It was the last straw for me.

The night before Fox announced Tucker was out, "60 Minutes" aired a segment debunking "Patriot Purge's" central claim that Ray Epps, a Trump supporter at the Jan. 6 rally, was an FBI asset deployed with a MAGA hat to goad the protesters into storming the Capitol so that the deep state could purge our finest patriots before going after the rest of them — i.e., you, dear viewer.

According to this newspaper, that "60 Minutes" segment was a concern for Rupert Murdoch too. Apparently, the $787-million settlement in the Dominion lawsuit wasn't a factor (which explains why worse offenders on that score remain at Fox). But the two things are not unrelated.

Much has been written about the damage Donald Trump has done to the right, less has been written about how the right had become so damaged as to be ripe for him to take over. An important part of that story is how the right became seduced by Saul Alinsky, the leftist radical, whose politics and tactics were once condemned by conservatives, me included. But many of my fellow conservatives became convinced the left "always wins" and they do so by using "Alinskyite tactics." Over time, the condemnations turned to admiration, then envy, and, finally, emulation.

Some of Alinsky's rules for radicals include: "Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it," and "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon. It is almost impossible to counterattack ridicule. Also, it infuriates the opposition, who then react to your advantage." This got translated into "Own the libs."

This was the soundtrack of Trump's presidency, for which "Tucker Carlson Tonight" served as a kind of liner notes. Trump's move was to claim his weaknesses were strengths — his phone calls to the Ukrainian president and to Georgia election officials were "perfect," passing a basic test for cognitive impairment proved he was genius, etc.

But it was Carlson who took Trump's biggest political sin — his complicity in Jan. 6 — and spun that into a tale of right-wing virtue and left-wing villainy. That was the point of "Patriot Purge," — to go beyond merely and meekly "respecting the audience" to outright pandering by declaring that Trump's most deplorable supporters were actually the right's most righteous victims.

Carlson turned tactics — ridicule, nastiness, flipping the script — into an ideology unto itself. His departure from Fox will not make the network more acceptable to its haters and harshest critics. But Fox without Tucker means the worst elements on the right have lost a megaphone.

@JonahDispatch

FOR THE RECORD

Surfer clique: In an April 23 column about the Lunada Bay Boys, the demographics of Palos Verdes Estates were incomplete. The population is 71.9% white, 22.9% Asian, 7.8% Latino and 0.4% Black.

High costs keep them from their dream schools

[**UC,** from A1]
dropped over the last decade.

Jonathan's financial aid package left a $4,000 funding gap he says he can't fill with income from his part-time job as a Starbucks barista or his mother's two low-wage jobs as a cook. He and his mother are fearful about the financial burdens of taking out a loan. He's hoping he erred in filling out his application for federal financial aid and will get more support once he amends it.

"I cried about it, I will not lie," Jonathan said about his financial aid shortfall. "You did all these things, tried your best. Then you look at the money aspect and see you can't afford it."

Rising financial challenges like Jonathan's are deepening concerns throughout UC that some of the state's poorest students may be missing out on the system's top-notch education, which could propel them to the highest echelons of wage earners and fuel the future state economy. UC delivers the highest completion rates and postgraduate earnings among California's three public higher-education systems.

"We are very concerned about these trends, because the university's mission is very tightly connected to upward mobility and enabling everyone to come to the University of California, especially low-income, first-generation and minority students," said UC Provost Katherine Newman. "This is something we pretty much talk about every day."

The share of UC students with incomes low enough to receive Pell Grants dropped to 33% in fall 2022 compared with 42% in fall 2012, according to systemwide data.

Nationally, rising incomes are pushing more students out of eligibility for Pell Grants even if they still can't fully afford college in high-cost states like California. The cost of living in Los Angeles, for instance, is 40% higher than in Houston. But the Pell program makes no geographical adjustments. Most Pell recipients have family incomes under $50,000.

Among the lowest-income students admitted to UC, the number who selected CSU instead doubled to 6,946 in fall 2021 from 2015 and also doubled for community colleges, to 3,063 students, the data show. Overall, the share of first-year students with annual family incomes of less than $50,000 who enrolled at UC dropped to 39.7% in 2021 from 54.4% in 2015. Similar downward trends are evident among students who are the first in their families to attend college.

UC data do not identify the specific reason students are opting for CSU and community colleges. Marisol Cuellar Mejia, a Public Policy Institute of California research fellow, said some may not be able to afford it and some may have been denied admission to their top UC choices and want to try again through the transfer route.

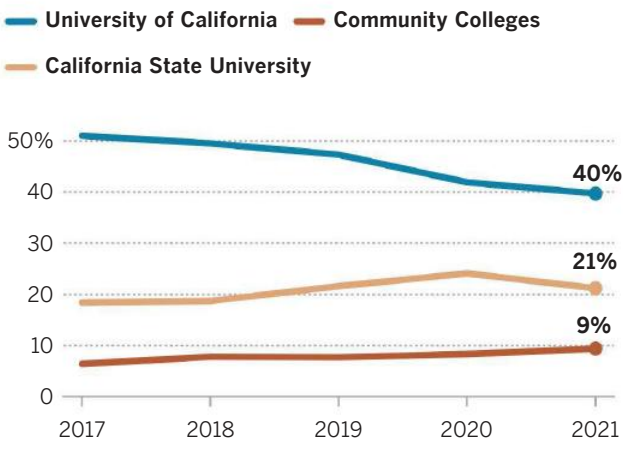
In addition, UC data show far more low-income students choose community college than those with higher family incomes. Community colleges remain a cost-effective option for students who are disciplined in their studies — and UC is creating new pathways to widen transfer accessibility.

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

EMILY GRAMAJO and Jonathan Cornejo are seniors at West Adams Preparatory High School in central Los Angeles. They have decided to enroll at community colleges because those schools are more affordable.

More low-income students are choosing community colleges and Cal State campuses

Percentage of first-year students admitted to UC with annual family incomes of less than $50,000.

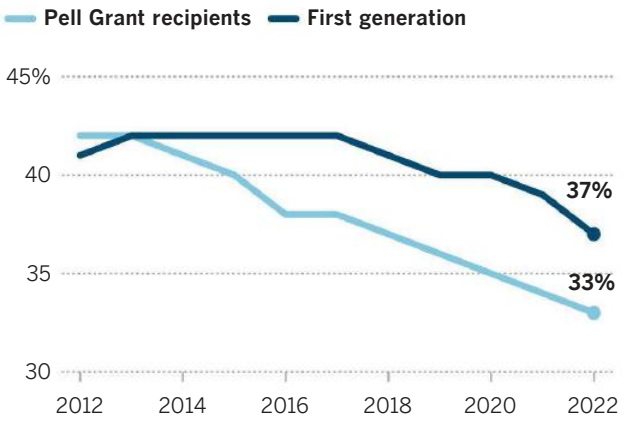


University of California

IRIS LEE Los Angeles Times

Pell Grant recipients and first-generation students at a decline

Shares of University of California students who receive Pell Grants or are the first member of their family to go to college as a percentage of total undergraduate enrollment.



University of California

IRIS LEE Los Angeles Times

Newman said several "hefty head winds" are driving down the number of low-income students at universities across the country. In California, the key barrier to college affordability is the rising cost of housing, which financial aid usually does not fully cover — unlike tuition, which is paid by the state's generous Cal Grant program for lower-income state students.

The UC system's nine undergraduate campuses are in some of the nation's priciest real estate markets; off-campus living costs climbed by an average 54% systemwide between 2014-15 and 2022-23, with higher increases at UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Irvine and UC Santa Cruz, according to UC data.

But commuting is not often an option because UC campuses are farther from home for many students than the 23 CSU and 115 California Community College campuses. Many low-income students, such as Jonathan, don't have cars.

"For students who are first-generation and low-income, being able to shelter in their parents' home helps to cut the costs, and that tends to tie them to local areas, more than more affluent students who can pick up and move into dormitory housing," Newman said.

In recent years, the state's strong labor market has probably pulled some low-income students admitted to UC into jobs instead, Newman said. And more students may be hesitant to leave home because the pandemic fallout has increased their family responsibilities or made them wary about rooming with strangers.

Emily Gramajo, a senior at West Adams Preparatory High, has a wait-list offer from UC Riverside and acceptances from Cal State campuses at Northridge and Dominguez Hills. But even if she gets off the Riverside wait list, she's already decided to attend L.A. City College because the first two years would be free under the California College Promise Grant program.

She said she is needed at home to clean, cook, take out the dog and baby-sit for her neighbors. She also said she would feel safer at home, having heard about scary dorm experiences.

She said she's "a little sad" about missing a four-year university experience out of high school. "But I feel like it would benefit me better if I go to community college first because I could save up all of my money and I could transfer in my last two years to a university," Emily said.

Counselors at several L.A. Unified high schools have noted the trend of UC-eligible students turning down admission offers with dismay. At Banning High School in Wilmington, counselor Araceli Fernandez said she pushes her students to choose a four-year university because she's seen too many students "lose focus" and take three or four years to complete a two-year community college program — or end up failing to transfer.

Many parents, who may not have attended college and are struggling economically, see UC's higher sticker price and don't want to take out loans to cover financial shortfalls because they're afraid they won't be able to pay them back, Fernandez said. She's had students turn down UCLA — the most applied-to university in the nation — because of the cost.

"They don't say, oh my God, UCLA is the top public university in the nation and if I just take out a loan of $3,000 a year, I could go there or Berkeley," Fernandez said. "They just look at that price and they just say no."

Jacqueline Villatoro, the West Adams college counselor, shares her own story of taking out loans — $30,000 as an undergraduate — to get through UC San Diego as the daughter of a single mother from Guatemala. She spent most of it not on campus housing but on commuting to San Diego from L.A. because her mother could only find a job as a live-in nanny after the 2008 recession.

Three or four times a week, Villatoro dropped off her younger sister at a relative's house, hit the road to San Diego by 5:30 a.m. and rushed home after her noon class to pick her up from school.

She tells families that student loans can be a worthwhile investment — especially for science, technology, engineering and math students headed for high-paying careers — but she often finds "parents are scared to take that leap."

Over the years, fewer UC students are taking out loans, although university data do not explain why. UC undergraduates with federal loans dropped to 55,214, or 23.6% of undergraduates, in 2021-22. During the 2011-12 academic year, 85,109, or 46.1% took out federal loans, UC data show.

During her 10 years as a college advisor, Villatoro said, she's seen financial aid packages covering a smaller share of rising college costs. Pell Grants, for instance, pay for less than 30% of the cost of four-year public colleges today compared with 75% in 1980 — prompting a national campaign to double the grant.

But even though UC's total cost of attendance is highest among the state's three public higher education systems, its campus institutional aid is also the largest, she noted. That often results in smaller financial shortfalls.

Jonathan's unmet need for UC San Diego, for instance, is $4,000 — but about $14,000 at San Francisco State, whose cost of attendance is considerably lower. That's because the Bay Area campus offered no institutional aid while UC San Diego is providing a $10,368 grant.

UC is stepping up its financial aid both systemwide and at individual campuses. The UC regents raised tuition for incoming undergraduates beginning last fall and set aside a larger share of the new revenue — 45% — for financial aid. That raised an additional $16 million for UC's need-based financial aid program, which disbursed a total $864 million in grants in 2021-22.

UC President Michael V. Drake has also launched a "debt-free path" program to provide students with enough grants and work-study opportunities to cover the cost of college without loans. UC officials are phasing in the program, planning to offer it to one-quarter of incoming students this fall and all undergraduates by 2030, said Shawn Brick, UC executive director of student financial support.

Additionally, Gov. Gavin Newsom and state legislators have expanded Cal Grants and scholarships for middle-class students to cover more living expenses and tuition. The expansions could take effect next year depending on the state's revenue projections.

A Pell Grant change is expected to increase the number of eligible students while simplifying the complicated application. UC projects as many as 11,000 additional students could qualify for a Pell in 2024, Brick said.

All of which could help UC stay in the forefront of affordable education. The proportion of UC students in the bottom 30% of income levels — about $66,000 a year or less — continues to grow, Newman said.

"I think there's a lot for the university to be proud of, but we're not going to rest on any laurels," Newman said. "When we see those [Pell] numbers go down, we get very concerned about it."

Jonathan, for his part, still dreams of attending UC San Diego.

He imagines himself pursuing his love for science — maybe physiology or human biology, a fascination first sparked by watching "Grey's Anatomy." He yearns to leave his L.A. confines and start an independent life in a new environment. He would love to have his own place to study, even look out of a dorm window and see the ocean.

He has about a week left before the nation's May 1 college commitment day. Maybe, he says, a miracle will happen.

Officer who killed Breonna Taylor has new job as deputy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARROLLTON, Ky. — A former Louisville, Ky., police officer who fired the shot that killed Breonna Taylor has a new job in law enforcement, a controversial hiring that drew protesters to a rural county northeast of the city.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office on Saturday confirmed the hiring of Myles Cosgrove, who was fired by the Louisville Metro Police Department in January 2021 for violating use-of-force procedures and failing to use a body camera during a raid on Taylor's apartment, according to media reports.

About a dozen people showed up Monday morning in downtown Carrollton, Ky., to object to his hiring, holding signs and chanting, "Cosgrove has got to go."

"I think he should be in jail," said Haley Wilson, a 24-year-old resident of the town near the Ohio River. She said it is "absolutely ridiculous" that Cosgrove is policing her town.

Investigators said Cosgrove fired 16 rounds into Taylor's apartment after her front door was breached during a narcotics raid on March 13, 2020. Thinking that there was an intruder, Taylor's boyfriend fired a handgun, striking Officer Jonathan Mattingly. The officers returned fire, killing Taylor in her hallway.

An FBI investigation determined that shots fired by Cosgrove and Mattingly struck Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, and that Cosgrove, who is white, probably fired the fatal shot.

Neither officer was charged by a 2020 state grand jury in Taylor's death, and a two-year investigation by the FBI cleared Cosgrove and Mattingly of any charges.

The FBI inquiry found that superior officers had crafted a faulty drug warrant that contained false information about Taylor.

U.S. Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland said in August that the officers who went to Taylor's apartment with the warrant "were not involved in drafting the warrant affidavit and were not aware that it was false."

Brett Hankison, an officer who fired shots during the raid that did not hit anybody, was found by a jury to be not guilty of wanton endangerment. He awaits trial on federal civil rights charges for his actions during the raid, as do two other officers who were involved in obtaining the warrant.

Another officer pleaded guilty to conspiracy in the crafting of the warrant.

JULIO CORTEZ Associated Press

A MURAL depicts Breonna Taylor, who was fatally shot March 13, 2020, at her home in Louisville, Ky.

In announcing Cosgrove's hiring at the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Robert Miller noted that Cosgrove had been cleared by the state grand jury.

In November, the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council voted to not revoke Cosgrove's state peace officer certification. This meant he could apply for other law enforcement jobs in the state.

There is no national database of officers who resign or are fired for misconduct, meaning that in many cases, they can apply for jobs with other police agencies.

In some cases, agencies that hire officers who were fired elsewhere may be unaware of that history because they failed to conduct proper background checks, said Ben Grunwald, a Duke University law school professor and co-author of a study published in 2020 on "wandering officers," or those fired by one agency who find work at another.

In some cases, it's possible the hiring agency sees a previously fired officer's history as a benefit, rather than a risk, Grunwald noted.

"Maybe that's exactly what they want," he said. "Maybe they are looking for a cowboy cop who has gotten in trouble in the past, but they think they got a bad shake."

SAMANTHA LINDBERG

THE AURORA BOREALIS appears over Mammoth Lakes on Sunday. The sight of northern lights over California will repeat because the sun is entering its most active phase during its 11-year cycle, a scientist says.

Retrial begins for 'That '70s Show' actor accused of rape

Danny Masterson is back in court months after jury deadlocked on assault charges.

BY JAMES QUEALLY

For the second time in less than a year, actor Danny Masterson sat in a Los Angeles courtroom Monday as prosecutors tried to make the case that he is a serial rapist whose accusers' voices were quashed for years by the powerful Church of Scientology.

Masterson, 47, is charged with multiple counts of rape stemming from allegations that he sexually assaulted three women at his Hollywood Hills home between 2001 and 2003, near the zenith of his fame for playing the mercurial Steven Hyde on the popular sitcom "That '70s Show." Prosecutors allege that he drugged two of the women before sodomizing them.

The Los Angeles Police Department began investigating Masterson in 2016, but claims by at least one of the women were brought to the agency's attention as early as 2003, authorities have said. Former L.A. County Dist. Atty. Jackie Lacey filed three counts of sexual assault against the actor in 2020. That prosecution ended in a mistrial in November, after jurors told Superior Court Judge Charlaine Olmedo that they were deadlocked.

Although church officials and Masterson's attorneys have tried to downplay the relevance of the actor's faith to the trial, all three accusers were active members of Scientology at the time of the alleged assaults and said the insular organization worked to protect Masterson.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Reinhold Mueller displayed images of the church's massive Sunset Boulevard property and its celebrity center in Hollywood during his opening statement Monday, while detailing Scientology doctrines that bar members from reporting one another to law enforcement.

"If you're a member of the Church of Scientology and you have an issue like this that's come up with another member of the church who is in good standing of the church, you are not permitted to go to law enforcement and report," Mueller said. "You cannot do it. There are consequences for that."

[See **Masterson,** B2]

BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

DANNY MASTERSON and wife Bijou Phillips leave court in Los Angeles after his mistrial in November.

Northern lights seen again in state

A strong solar storm creates a rare sight

BY GRACE TOOHEY

It had been only one month since Michael Steinberg had seen the northern lights for the first time — from Northern California, no less — before he heard there might be another opportunity for the rare sighting.

Warnings about another severe geomagnetic storm set off by eruptions on the sun meant that the aurora borealis — the scientific name for the dazzling lights typically seen only near the North Pole — was likely to be visible Sunday night, again from rare southern latitudes, including California.

So Steinberg, a 20-year-old student at Cal State Chico, drove west Sunday evening, away from Chico's bright lights to try to capture the dazzling sight.

About 9:30 p.m., he said, he spotted the northern lights from his location in Orland, north of Sacramento. He captured bright pink and purple hues against the night sky with his long-exposure camera. It wasn't quite as vibrant when seen

[See **Lights,** B2]

Suspect drove off with meth in flubbed drug sting

Undercover Riverside County sheriff's deputies sold 60 pounds to a trafficker.

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

A Riverside County Sheriff's Department sting operation that went wrong last week put 60 pounds of methamphetamine into the hands of a narcotics trafficker, the department has admitted.

Narcotics investigators with the department were hoping to identify drug traffickers Wednesday during an undercover operation, the Sheriff's Department said. Deputies posing as wholesale drug sellers met with a suspect who wanted to buy 27 kilos of the powerful stimulant, they said.

The deputies sold the street drug to the suspect, who promptly drove away from the undercover team, according to the department.

Other deputies from the gang task force unsuccessfully tried to stop the suspect's car, according to the Sheriff's Department.

The suspect sped away at "high speeds" and exhibited a "disregard for public safety."

"Why would you let someone get in their vehicle, I don't know," said Michael Lujan, a retired captain with the Sheriff's Department who lost the election to be sheriff to Chad Bianco last year.

"It is pretty embarrassing. It's unfortunate because now we have additional narcotics out on the street."

Lujan said he heard the sale was made for $35,000.

Lujan said a "reverse-buy" operation usually has guardrails to stop suspects from making off with narcotics.

The department creates an "operational package" that details any concerns or difficulties that could occur during the sting, Lujan said. Hazards in the surrounding area are outlined, and any escape routes are noted.

Ideally, sufficient background has been done on the suspect and there is a sur-

[See **Sting,** B5]

Montebello hospital forced to file for bankruptcy protection

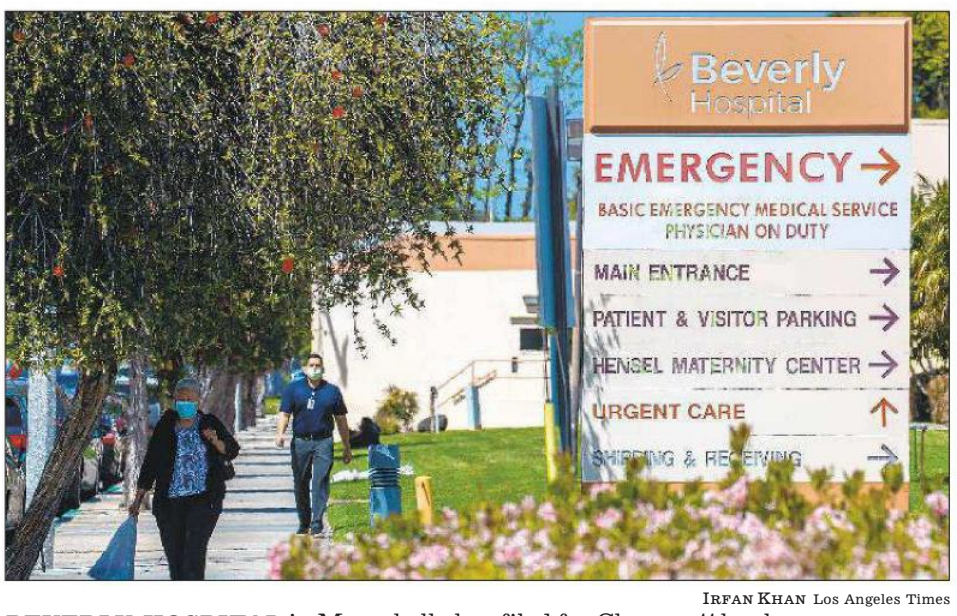
BY EMILY ALPERT REYES

Beverly Hospital filed for bankruptcy protection on Wednesday, a step officials said was needed to avoid closing the Montebello facility.

Hospital officials said their goal is to find a buyer to keep the facility open and maintain crucial services for residents of Montebello and nearby communities, including El Monte, Whittier and East Los Angeles. They laid the blame for their financial plight on surging costs that have outpaced government reimbursements to care for low-income patients.

"The need to restructure is regrettable, but to save the hospital, we were forced to take these necessary steps," President and Chief Executive Alice Cheng said in a statement announcing that Beverly Hospital had filed voluntary petitions for Chapter 11 under the bankruptcy code. "It's a sad situation, but it's essential for us to continue to provide healthcare for the people of our community."

[See **Hospital,** B4]



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

BEVERLY HOSPITAL in Montebello has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Officials say the measure was needed to avoid closing the facility.

Leaders meet in Monterey Park for gun reforms

Months after mass shooting, officials rally for Assembly bills that seek to reduce number of firearms. **B3**

Kounalakis enters the 2026 governor's race

Democratic lieutenant governor touts her experience as she hopes to become first woman to lead California. **B3**

Flameout at Disney parks

Some fire effects have been suspended after a malfunction with an animatronic dragon at Disneyland. **B5**

Lottery **B2**

National Guard, CHP to aid S.F. in fentanyl crisis

Newsom tells agencies to assist prosecutors and police in targeting large-scale suppliers.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

Gov. Gavin Newsom is calling on the California National Guard and the California Highway Patrol to help San Francisco police and prosecutors fight the fentanyl crisis facing the city.

The new partnership is meant to target traffickers, dismantle the supply of fentanyl into the city and address drug-related crime, the governor's office announced Friday.

"We are providing more law resources and personnel to crack down on crime linked to the fentanyl crisis, holding the poison peddlers accountable, and increasing law enforcement presence to improve public safety and public confidence in San Francisco," Newsom said in a statement.

Some local officials criticized the announcement, saying it lacked details about how exactly state agencies would help tackle the crisis.

"This latest publicity stunt will not meaningfully improve conditions in the neighborhood," said San Francisco Supervisor Dean Preston, whose district includes the Tenderloin, one of the most overdose-plagued parts of the city. "It is a transparent effort to appease national conservative media by declaring war on a diverse, low-income, urban neighborhood, exploiting the struggles of the Tenderloin rather than investing in the community."

According to Newsom, the law enforcement partnership will focus on traffickers and suppliers of the drugs, not people struggling with substance abuse.

Newsom directed the CHP to provide personnel and resources to assist the San Francisco Police Department, especially in areas such as the Tenderloin that have been hit particularly hard by the presence of fentanyl.

The California National Guard was asked to support the analysis of drug trafficking operations. The Guard's Counterdrug Task Force has

[See **Fentanyl,** B5]

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Kings hope hard lessons from Game 4 will revive upset bid. **B10**

Northern lights are seen again in the state

[**Lights,** from B1]
with the naked eye, he said, but the phenomenon was still evident — and clearly more vivid than last month.

"Once my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I could see the pink hue on the horizon looking north," Steinberg said.

"I've seen some incredible stuff ... but last night's aurora takes the cake. [I] never thought I would see an aurora that bright in Northern California, much less twice in the span of a month."

The sightings of northern lights in back-to-back months are the product of the sun entering its most active phase during its 11-year cycle, which probably will peak in late 2024 or early 2025, said Bill Murtagh, program coordinator for the Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colo., part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We're in a ramped-up, elevated stage from now for the next four, five, six years," Murtagh said. "We'll certainly see more [auroras]. ... If you missed this one, stay tuned, there's more to come."

Increased instances of sun spots or eruptions on the sun create these spacial geomagnetic storms, which, depending on their strength, can disrupt the Earth's magnetic field — and shift the display of the northern lights toward the equator, according to Murtagh and his team.

Although both geomagnetic storms this spring reached the severe level on the Space Weather Prediction Center's scale, March's storm barely qualified, Murtagh said. But Sunday's storm was "almost twice the strength," he said.

Although not exceptionally strong, he said, "it was just a really solid geomagnetic storm." He said people in the Carolinas, northern Texas, northern Arizona, Colorado and Central California reported views of the northern lights late Sunday.

Jim Tang, a software engineer from Walnut Creek, Calif., was among them. He decided to drive east to try to find clear skies for the view.

"I was also looking at the cloud forecast," Tang said. "It looked like most of Northern California was going to be clouded over." He drove for about four hours, almost to the Nevada border, to Topaz Lake, he said.

"When I stepped out and I noticed the aurora and I was kind of mind-blown," said Tang, who has traveled to Alaska and Iceland to see the northern lights, but had never seen the dazzling sight from his home state.

"The aurora was definitely visible [with] the naked eye; that's how amazing it was," Tang said. He said it was strongest for about 15 minutes, when he captured bright pinks, purples and oranges with his camera, but he stayed about an hour to enjoy the view before driving back to the Bay Area.

These geomagnetic storms have the potential to affect spacecraft operations and degrade GPS navigation, as well as disrupt power systems, but space weather experts say those issues are rare and unlikely to be noticed by the general public.

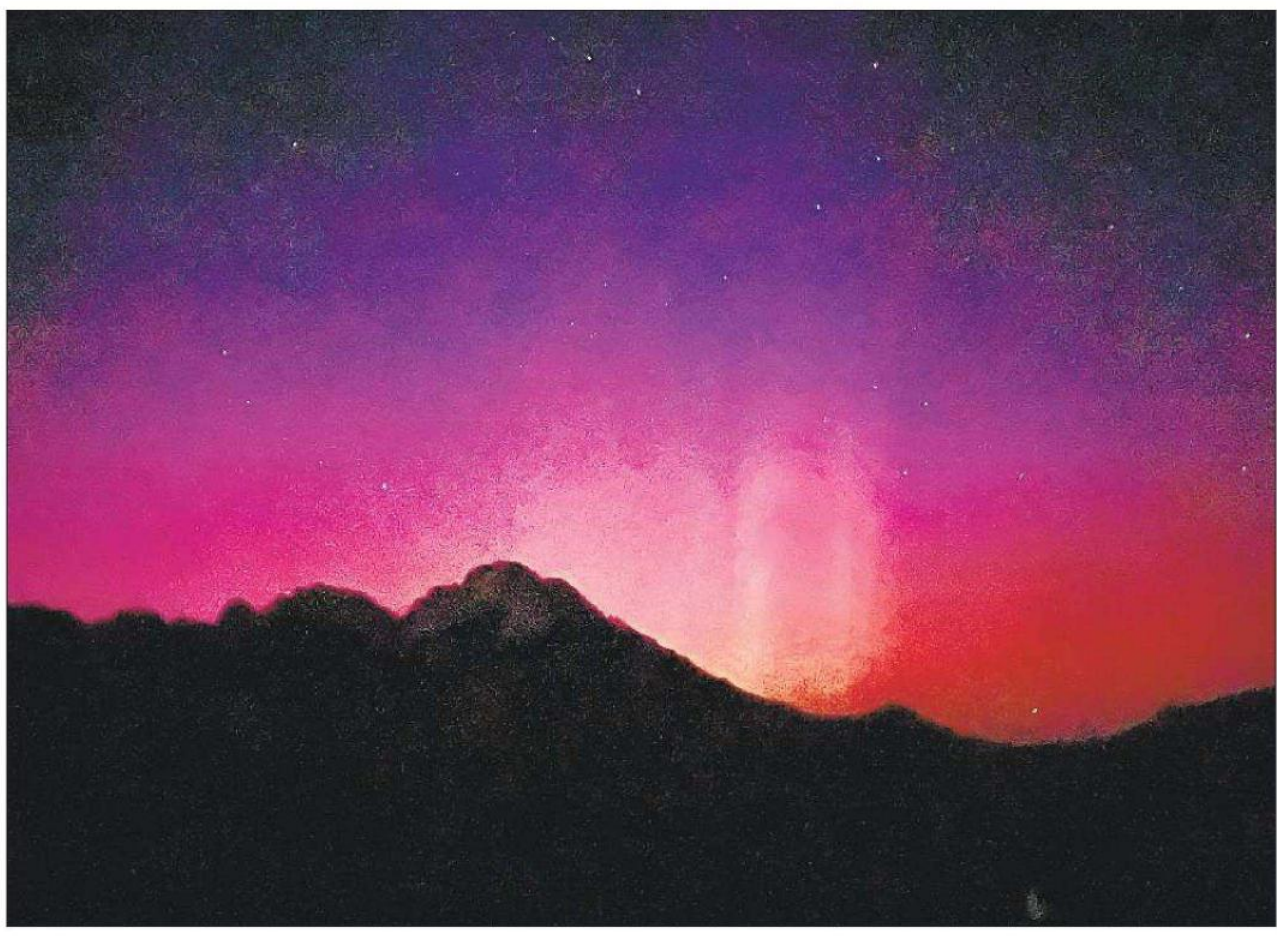
NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center was still warning of a moderate geomagnetic storm Monday but said the storm was winding down, with the northern lights probably visible only from parts of Canada and Alaska by Monday evening.

But with more geomagnetic storms expected over the next few months and years, Tang is planning to keep up with space weather updates for another chance at the spectacular view — which has become easier to follow and share over the last two decades.

"With this solar cycle, we have [better] cameras, we have social media," Tang said.

"It's pretty cool; we have this technology to document and know about these solar storms."

> 'We're in a ramped-up, elevated stage from now for the next four, five, six years. ... There's more to come.'
>
> — Bill Murtagh, program coordinator for the Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colo.



Alice Hwang

ALICE HWANG used a cellphone to capture the event Sunday while she was camping in the Owens Peak Wilderness in the southern Sierra. Some people drove hundreds of miles to catch a glimpse of the spectacle.

Ted S. Warren Associated Press

AN AURORA BOREALIS, also known as the northern lights, is seen in the early morning sky Monday near Washtucna, Wash. More geomagnetic storms are expected over the next few months and years.

Lottery results

Tonight's Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $26 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

For Monday, April 24, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**
19-21-55-66-68—**Powerball 3**
Jackpot: $28 million

Fantasy Five: 2-5-12-13-29

Daily Four: 9-4-5-7

Daily Three (midday): 5-6-6

Daily Three (evening): 9-8-4

Daily Derby:
(8) Gorgeous George
(5) California Classic
(7) Eureka
Race time: 1:46.83

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Actor's retrial on rape charges begins in L.A.

[**Masterson,** from B1]
The church has denied that it has doctrines limiting when members can contact police. Former members have said the church generally abhors outside interference from any government organization, including law enforcement.

After a 2021 preliminary hearing in Masterson's case, the judge concluded that Scientology had "an expressly written doctrine" that "not only discourages, but prohibits" its members from reporting one another to law enforcement.

Scientology has disputed those assertions.

"Church policy explicitly demands Scientologists abide by all laws of the land, including the reporting of crimes. This is blatantly clear in the documents we understand were put before the court — and many others," Karin Pouw, the church's top spokeswoman, said to The Times in a 2021 statement.

She also noted that the church is not a party in the criminal case, something Masterson's defense counsel revisited on Monday.

"Remember the name of the case is People versus Danny Masterson," attorney Phillip Cohen said. "This should not be a trial about Scientology."

During his opening argument, Mueller continually revisited the idea that Masterson's accusers were torn between their faith and the abuse they allege.

Several of the accusers sought permission from church officials to report Masterson, according to Mueller, but were constantly rebuffed. One woman, identified as Christina B., had been in a six-year romantic relationship with Masterson before alleging he sodomized her while she was unconscious in 2001. Christina B. said a church ethics officer told her that the incident wasn't rape because the two were dating, Mueller said.

During earlier hearings, the women said they had relatives practicing Scientology and feared that reporting Masterson to police would lead to excommunication from not only their faith, but also their families. Jen B., a second-generation Scientologist who alleged that Masterson drugged and violently raped her in 2003, said her "life would be over" if she reported him at the time.

"My parents would have to disconnect from me. ... I couldn't talk to any of my friends ever again. ... I wouldn't have anywhere to work or live," she testified at a 2021 preliminary hearing.

The Times generally does not name victims of sexual assault unless they choose to fully identify themselves. To protect their privacy, the three women accusing Masterson were identified in court by either their first name and last initial or their first initial and last name.

Cohen argued that if jurors could look past the complex Scientology dynamics that the prosecution planned to present, the case is actually very simple, one based on old allegations with minimal corroboration.

"This case truly, from an informational standpoint, is a basic case," he said. "It comes down to three nights, 20-plus years ago, no percipient witnesses, no forensics."

Over the course of two hours, Cohen picked away at the prosecution's case, noting that Jen B. claimed she suffered serious bruising in the attack from Masterson before displaying photos of her in bathing suits taken days after that showed no injuries. He also noted that the prosecution had no way to prove its allegation that Masterson drugged victims, as there were no DNA samples collected.

He also questioned why the women had shared their stories with one another before speaking to law enforcement, arguing they could have picked up details from one another's allegations.

Masterson sat quietly throughout the proceedings. He has not spoken to the press throughout either trial, nor did he testify during the initial proceedings. His wife, Bijou Phillips, and several of his family members formed a small support group in the courtroom. The trial is expected to last a maximum of two months, according to Olmedo.

Masterson, who was also born into Scientology, has contended that the allegations against him were dredged up, in part, to boost a television series launched by actress Leah Remini, a former Scientologist who has become one of the faith's most outspoken critics.

Remini was in court Monday. She escorted Christina B. in and out of the room when she began her testimony late Monday afternoon. Defense attorney Shawn Holley tried to have Remini thrown out during opening statements on the grounds she might serve as a witness in the trial. Olmedo denied Holley's request.

Holley said in court that she could call Remini — who also gained fame for her role in a sitcom, "The King of Queens" — as a witness to discuss conversations with Masterson's accusers.

"The women who Danny raped deserve justice for what they've been put through, not only by Danny but by Scientology which has tried to destroy them for reporting their rapes," Remini said on Twitter.

During a bizarre moment early Monday morning, Remini could be heard saying "you dropped something" to a man who shuffled away back toward the elevator lobby outside the courtroom. In a brief conversation later in the day, Remini said the man might have been trying to serve her with a defense subpoena, but since he just threw a piece of paper on the ground and "ran away," she wasn't sure.

A spokeswoman for Masterson's defense team declined to expand on their reasons for wanting to call Remini as a witness.

Although the church has bemoaned being linked to the trial, that has not stopped its members from playing a part in the case and its media coverage. A Scientology group that says it is fighting discrimination against the church began attacking Remini on Twitter as soon as news of her presence in court surfaced. Online social media accounts believed to be linked to the church also have harangued reporters covering the case since the initial proceedings last year.

The prosecution's evidence and witness list is expected to be largely similar to what was presented last year. On Monday, Mueller described a new allegation against Masterson, levied by a woman who was working on a film in Toronto in 2000 when she met the actor at a wrap party.

Mueller said the woman, Kathy J., claimed that Masterson served her a drink before she became weak. When she asked for his help to reach a bathroom, he led her to a bedroom in a hotel suite and raped her, according to Mueller.

The woman reported the rape to her husband months later and did not tell police in Toronto until Masterson was charged in Los Angeles, Mueller said.

Prosecutors reviewed five assault allegations against Masterson and brought charges from three claims. During the initial trial, the accusers said Masterson often flew into explosive rages. One woman claimed he brandished a gun and choked her unconscious while raping her. His ex-girlfriend, Christina B., said he beat her several times during their relationship and forced himself on her while she was asleep.

Despite the testimony, prosecutors seemed far from a conviction last year. Before jurors told Olmedo they were deadlocked, a poll of the panel found that fewer than half the jurors were willing to convict Masterson of any count.

Obituaries

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Linda Leveson Wolf

August 20, 1940 - April 21, 2023

With sadness, we acknowledge the death of Linda Leveson Wolf, beloved wife of Larry for over 62 years, mother to Melissa, Jay, and Bryan, mother-in law of Scott, Jackie, and Elisabeth, and proud grandmother of Ethan, Catie, Morgan, Emmeline, and Philip. Linda was infused with an innate sense of art, style, and beauty. Her style was clean and uncluttered. In art and design she saw the complexities in blacks, whites, grays, and shading. Linda was an early collector of contemporary artists like Cy Twombly, Joseph Beuys, and Sam Francis. To her, art was not an investment but an expression of life through line. When she was done looking at a picture, she quietly donated or sold it. Commencing in the 1990's, Linda became an accomplished photographer. She worked on manual cameras and shot and developed only black and white film. She traveled throughout the United States and Europe taking photographs, which were featured in shows around Los Angeles County. Surrounded by art, beauty, and family, Linda fought a debilitating illness on her own terms. She is missed.

Armenians remember their darkest chapter

A crowd gathers in Los Angeles for the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Rally for Justice on Monday to remember the victims of the genocide and to call for an immediate end to Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin Corridor, a mountainous road that links Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. At right, Greta Aslanian, 4, observes the rally atop her father's shoulders along Hollywood Boulevard.

Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

State medical board may get boost in powers

Senate committee OKs bill giving panel greater authority to discipline doctors.

BY PAUL SISSON

The Medical Board of California may soon get a significant boost in its enforcement powers, but some are already saying that proposed changes do not go far enough.

On a unanimous vote Monday, the state Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development approved a "sunset review" bill that would allow the board to continue operating through 2028, simultaneously expanding its ability to pursue physician discipline statewide.

State Sen. Richard Roth (D-Riverside), the committee's chair, said the changes were "aimed at ensuring that the medical board has the tools to do the job that we've tasked them with and do so efficiently and effectively."

Proposals include increasing the board's budget so that it can afford more employees to investigate allegations of doctor wrongdoing; adding two more members to the board's roster of directors, which would shift the preponderance of leadership away from physicians; reducing the burden of proof required for less severe cases; and speeding up enforcement powers when a doctor is convicted of a felony involving "moral turpitude, dishonesty, corruption, fraud or sexual assault."

If the list of changes ultimately survives a series of legislative hearings, it will be a massive increase in the medical board's powers, but some note that a major change in patient notification requested in recent public hearings is missing.

A series of high-profile cases has put pressure on the medical board to increase the speed and consequences of its disciplinary process for more than a decade, and Consumer Watchdog, a nonprofit advocacy group, was quick to issue a statement on the proceedings Monday, citing an ongoing disciplinary issue in San Diego as an example of why changes are needed.

Just this month, San Diego County Deputy Dist. Atty. Gina Darvas brought a charge of second-degree murder against Dr. Carlos Chacón, a Bonita, Calif., plastic surgeon initially accused of involuntary manslaughter in 2021 after the death of patient Megan Espinoza in 2018.

Court files said Espinoza suffered cardiac arrest during a breast augmentation surgery but indicated that the surgeon waited three hours before calling 911.

Carmen Balber, Consumer Watchdog's executive director, said patient notification is vital. Many, she said, still find it unacceptable that doctors facing criminal charges aren't required to inform those they are actively treating. "We want to make sure that patients have the information that they need to keep themselves safe," Balber said.

Marc Carlos, Chacón's attorney, emphasized in an email Monday afternoon that accusations, by their very nature, are unproved. "Criminal charges are allegations and unproven until judgment is final," Carlos said. "Dr. Chacón is steadfast in his determination to defend and clear his name. This case is problematic for the medical profession in the district attorney's decision to file homicide charges for results which may have been the unavoidable consequence of any surgery."

Sisson writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

A gathering in Monterey Park for gun reforms

BY SUMMER LIN

Lawmakers and community leaders gathered Monday morning at Monterey Park City Hall to support legislation they hope will reduce guns on the streets, months after 11 people were killed in a mass shooting on Lunar New Year's Eve.

The lawmakers and gun-control supporters called for adoption of three measures — AB 732, AB 733 and AB 1638 — introduced this year by Assemblymember Mike Fong (D-Alhambra), whose district includes Monterey Park. The bills are in committee in Sacramento and will be heard Tuesday by the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

"Hours after the mass shooting on Lunar New Year's Eve, I stood alongside our then-Mayor Henry Lo, Monterey Park City Council and community leaders in front of a shattered community," Fong said at the news conference. "We lost 11 beautiful lives. Loved ones who enjoyed dancing, living life to the fullest, just going about a night on the town."

As of Jan. 1, there are nearly 24,000 people who are prohibited from possessing a firearm in California but have one registered to their name, according to the state Department of Justice.

The legislation comes after news reports of alleged gunmen who were able to buy firearms and kill their victims, despite being under restraining orders.

AB 732 would increase the roles of the court, probation and prosecuting attorneys to ensure that guns are relinquished during a conviction, meaning that the court won't be able to close a case until the firearm has been handed over. The bill would also require someone to be designated to receive updates on armed prohibited people in their area and to report to the California Department of Justice their efforts to get those firearms relinquished.

AB 733 would prohibit local and state agencies from selling firearms, firearm parts, body armor and ammunition.

In the event of an emergency in an area in which 10% of the population speak a language other than English, AB 1638 would require that the local agency provide information in the other language spoken by that population.

Monterey Park, a largely Asian enclave, was the site of a Jan. 21 shooting that left 11 people dead and nine wounded at a dance studio. The suspect, 72-year-old Hemet resident Huu Can Tran, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Torrance the next day.

"If guns made us safer, we'd already be the safest country on the planet," Prosecutors Alliance Executive Director Cristine Soto DeBerry said at the news conference in support of the legislation. "In this nation, we have more guns than people, but we do not have safety."

"Monterey Park, in light of the recent tragedies, has been transformed," Monterey Park Mayor Jose Sanchez said at the conference. "And that has become today, an agent of change. The change our community wishes to see is a society that is free of gun violence."

The National Rifle Assn. Institute for Legislative Action, the lobbying arm of the NRA, released a statement opposing AB 732 and AB 733, urging its supporters to oppose the measures.

Kounalakis enters 2026 race

Democratic lieutenant governor hopes to be first woman elected California governor.

BY SEEMA MEHTA

California Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis announced Monday she is running for governor, laying down an early marker for what is likely to be a vigorous 2026 campaign to replace termed-out Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The Democrat asserted in her announcement that she is well qualified for the post because of the combination of her experience in government — two terms in her current office as well as serving as U.S. ambassador to Hungary during the Obama administration — as well as in the private sector, in which she led a Sacramento development company founded by her father.

"As the proud daughter of an immigrant who came to California with nothing, my family owes everything to this state — I'm running for governor to ensure all Californians have the opportunities we've had," Kounalakis said in a statement.

Her family is wealthy and has spent generously on their political priorities, including Kounalakis' lieutenant governor's race and Phil Angelides' unsuccessful 2006 gubernatorial run.

The 57-year-old's announcement that she was opening a gubernatorial campaign committee allows her to raise $72,800 per donor, and mirrors Newsom's decision to enter the 2018 governor's race three years early. The pair are advised by the same political consultants.

Eric Jaye, a top advisor to former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa during his unsuccessful 2018 gubernatorial campaign against Newsom, said entering the race early has potential risks as well as rewards.

"If she is able to use the first move to her advantage to gather a critical mass of endorsements and support, it creates tremendous momentum for her campaign. The other obvious truth if she's not, then she's displaying weakness," the Democratic San Francisco-based consultant said. "It's a calculated risk. It's a bold maneuver with an obvious upside and a clear downside."

The race to lead the world's fifth-largest economy is expected to draw many contenders from a large pool of ambitious Democratic politicians looking for their next perch.

If Kounalakis is successful, she would be the first woman elected to lead the state. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and former Hewlett-Packard chief Meg Whitman are among the women who have unsuccessfully run for the post.

"We have never had a woman governor of the state of California. If I don't try to organize a campaign to be the first, who will?" Kounalakis told The Times in 2022.

The lieutenant governor's post is viewed as largely ceremonial, but two of the state's last four governors held the office: Newsom and Gray Davis. Kounalakis highlighted her work in the job opposing tuition hikes and other policies that would probably be popular with the state's liberal voters.

"I've fought hard to keep the doors of opportunity open for all by making college more accessible, took on the Trump administration's attempts to expand offshore drilling, fought for new laws to protect women from sexual assault, and expanded access to reproductive choice," she said.

RICH PEDRONCELLI Associated Press

ELENI KOUNALAKIS is sworn in as lieutenant governor in 2019. She says her experience in government and business makes her well qualified to be governor.

Suspect in catalytic converter theft killed

Stabbing occurred in South El Monte when a resident confronted three people.

By Summer Lin

A man suspected of stealing a catalytic converter from a vehicle was stabbed to death early Friday in South El Monte, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Deputies responded about 2:37 a.m. to a report of a stabbing in the 1100 block of Thienes Avenue, according to a news release from the Sheriff's Department.

Deputies arrived at the scene and found a man between 45 and 50 years old suffering from a stab wound.

Jae C. Hong Associated Press

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES arrived at the scene and found a man suffering from a stab wound.

He was pronounced dead at the scene by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The man, along with two other suspects, were attempting to steal the catalytic converter from a car parked in a driveway on the street, the Sheriff's Department told KCBS-TV Channel 2.

A resident of the home had come out of the home's front door and was confronted by the suspects when the stabbing occurred, according to authorities.

The resident has been detained for further questioning, authorities said.

The other suspects were last seen getting into a small car and driving east on Thienes Avenue.

Authorities said the investigation was continuing.

Montebello hospital files for bankruptcy

[**Hospital,** from B1]

Hospital officials said they had secured up to $13 million in financing to enable the facility to keep operating without interruption as it pursues options for a sale, aiming to find a buyer "who can ensure the longevity of the hospital so that it can continue to serve the communities that need it the most."

More than 90% of Beverly Hospital patients rely on government programs such as Medi-Cal and Medicare, which have failed to cover the "meteoric rise" in costs of labor and supplies, officials said in a statement. As a result, they said, Beverly has ended each budget year since 2020 in the red.

The 202-bed hospital announced last month that it would pare back services in June to cut costs, including by halting labor and delivery care in its maternity department.

Beverly Hospital officials said they had tried unsuccessfully to negotiate mergers or affiliations with three hospital systems and cited an "onerous review process" by the California attorney general as an obstacle to those efforts. (State law gives the attorney general oversight for the sale or transfer of nonprofit hospitals.) In January, Beverly Hospital told the attorney general that its attempt to affiliate itself with Adventist Health was "no longer viable" because it did not have the financial resources to remain operational while the review was underway.

The attorney general's office disputed that the review process was "onerous" and said allowing a sale without such a review "would be potentially dangerous for the community," because it would evade an important step that "would look into whether their needs would continue to be met under new ownership." The state office said it had been attempting to work with Beverly Hospital management since March 2022 after hearing about its financial problems, but the hospital did not file a notice to start review of a potential transaction until December 2022.

"In January, the parties withdrew from the process — if they had gone through with it then, our review would have been completed by now," the attorney general's office said in a statement.

Beverly Hospital officials had also pleaded with state lawmakers for $8 million in immediate aid, but the money was not approved, Cheng said in a court filing.

Cheng said that shuttering the hospital would have a grave effect on the community, invoking as a cautionary tale the recent closure of Madera Community Hospital in the San Joaquin Valley. The closing of that rural hospital spurred Madera and Fresno counties each to declare a state of emergency and sent patients spilling into Fresno emergency rooms.

The bankruptcy filing by Beverly was "precipitated by the need to avoid what happened in Madera," Cheng wrote. "A sale process that is overseen by this court will enable the debtors to save Beverly Hospital and maintain the high quality of healthcare it provides to a community in desperate need of care."

Hospital industry groups have said that Madera was not a fluke: A report from the consulting firm Kaufman Hall, commissioned by the California Hospital Assn., found that 1 in 5 hospitals across the state are at risk of closure. Hospitals in El Centro, Visalia and Arcata have publicly announced cuts to services.

What is happening at Beverly is an example "of the deeply concerning situation that California hospitals find themselves in and of the risk facing millions of Californians that they could lose access to critical hospital services," said David Simon, senior vice president of communications for the California Hospital Assn. The association has been pushing for an infusion of $1.5 billion from the state to stabilize hospitals and has said that Medi-Cal reimbursement rates must be increased in the long term.

"2022 was a very difficult year for hospitals in general," said Glenn Melnick, a USC professor focused on health finance.

As hospitals have faced rising costs for labor and supplies, those that are not part of big systems tend to be at greater risk, "because typically the big systems have accumulated money and built up giant reserves that they can make available to the members of their system who get into trouble," Melnick said.

That reality made Beverly Hospital more vulnerable, said Stan Otake, a healthcare consultant and former hospital executive.

"This is, sadly, a situation where a small community hospital has no big brother or big sister to help them out during trying times," he said.

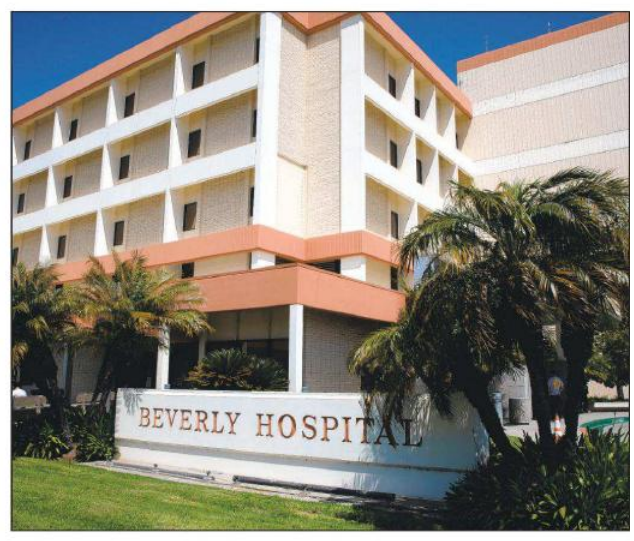
Christopher Whaley, an economist at the Rand Corp., said what is happening in the hospital market is "a tale of the haves and the have-nots." Hospital finances were widely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, "but there was also lots of federal financial assistance ... that disproportionately moved to the 'haves,' " leaving the rest in particular jeopardy, he said.

Those financial stresses are playing out in California against a backdrop of consolidation, as hospital systems acquire physician groups that direct patients back to their hospitals, Whaley added: "If you're a community hospital left out of the consolidation wave, then your stream of privately insured patients ... all of a sudden dries up."

Whaley expects more hospitals to try to consolidate with larger systems in order to survive. That, in turn, has implications for patients: Researchers have found that hospital consolidation drives up prices and does not improve the quality of care, Whaley said. But "if the alternative is that a hospital goes out of business, then that's even worse."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, who represents the Montebello area, said in a statement that she was saddened to learn about the financial struggles at Beverly Hospital and had been "advocating with health plans and other partners to work with this private hospital so residents do not lose access to this important resource.

"I am hopeful that this declaration can result in the private hospital receiving the tools needed to set themselves on a path to stronger financial footing in the future," Solis added, "and I will continue to urge our state and federal partners to ensure Medicaid funding is sustainable for institutions that serve our most vulnerable."



Irfan Khan Los Angeles Times

SERVICES will be cut at Beverly Hospital. Across California, 1 in 5 hospitals are at risk of closure.

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The Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire Department) is releasing a Request for information (RFI) to obtain information from firms interested in entering into a Vehicle Sponsorship Agreement with the Fire Department.

To obtain the RFI documents, please contact Carlos Santiago by email at Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov.

The submission deadline is May 15, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. (PST) to: Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov

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SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 21STCV32492

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
STEPHEN C. MILLS, an Individual; BRANDON DEJOHN DOUVER, an Individual ; JULIE G. FRISINO, an Individual; BARBARA HECTOR , an Individual; JASON G . SCOTT, an Individual

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
MICHAEL JOHNSON, an Individual,

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decider en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
LOS ANGELES CENTRAL SUPERIOR COURT
111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Michael Johnson, Pasadena, Callfomil 91004 No. : (626) 200-9435
1776 North Madison Avenue,
Pasadena, CA 91004
(626) 200-9435

Date: (Fecha) Sept 02, 2021

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)
Y. Tarasyuk Deputy (Adjunto)

NOTICE OF PETITION
TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
Onsy W. Estafan,
also known as Onsy Wissa Estafan
23STPB03516

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Onsy W. Estafan, also known as Onsy Wissa Estafan.**
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **Michael R. Bishara** in the Superior Court of California, County of **LOS ANGELES**.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that **Michael R. Bishara** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on
May 09, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 2D
located at Stanley Mosk Courthouse
111 NORTH HILL STREET,
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for the Petitioner:
Paul C. Franco
7473 N. Ingram Avenue, Suite 106
Fresno, CA 93711
(559) 389-5853
Published in the Los Angeles Times

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HSSUI
NITEW
RPDYOA
NRGUDO

We all have our moments. Just know how important you are to all of us.
I'm happy during the day but sad when everyone leaves.
4/25
THE MOODY STAIRCASE WAS HAVING ITS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOMMY RAVEN BANANA HANDLE
Answer: Words like "hostile, vicious, malicious, rude, etc." — MEAN MEAN

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The state of what's next.

Disney halts fire effects at parks after dragon malfunction

Saturday's incident was the latest in a series of mishaps to occur at Disneyland.

By Terry Castleman

Certain fire effects at Disney properties will be temporarily suspended after an animatronic dragon used in Disneyland's "Fantasmic" show burst into flames Saturday night, startling the audience and prompting evacuations.

Disney officials say similar fire effects will be suspended at company theme parks across the globe, including on a dragon float at the Festival of Fantasy Parade at Walt Disney World in Florida. The float will remain part of the parade, but the fire effect will not be used for now, Disney officials said.

The animatronic dragon at the "Fantasmic" attraction at Disney's Hollywood Studios theme park in Florida incorporates a different pyrotechnic system than the one used at Disneyland and therefore won't be affected, officials said.

Tim Turensek, an accountant from Minneapolis, witnessed the blaze Saturday at Disneyland.

The fire, water and light show normally operates twice a night from Tom Sawyer Island, and most park visitors watch from the opposite shore, near New Orleans Square.

"When it first started, I thought it was part of the show," Turensek said. The dragon had been breathing fire, and Turensek was impressed, wondering how the crew could "let the whole thing catch on fire and still be operational."

When it became clear that the fire mechanism was malfunctioning, there "was a little delay in relaying to the cast members what to do," he said, "but once everyone was out, it was business as usual outside that part of the park."

Turensek found it "quite comical they continued to play the upbeat Disney music while the fire roared on."

In a statement, Disneyland officials said, "All cast members were safely evacuated from Tom Sawyer Island. Due to smoke and wind, attractions near the island were safely evacuated of any guests, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation at this time."

Disneyland will be "temporarily suspending fire effects similar" to those used in "Fantasmic" at "select shows and entertainment experiences globally out of an abundance of caution," officials said.

The Disneyland website shows no performances of "Fantasmic" scheduled until May 12.

The flaming dragon joins a list of Disneyland mishaps over the years.

In 2011, a flying carpet used in a production of "Aladdin" flipped; the show reopened after the malfunction with the carpet grounded, according to the Orange County Register.

In 2015, a fire broke out near the "It's a Small World" attraction, per NBC. No one was injured.

In 2018, a collapsing float catapulted Santa off his sleigh during the Christmas Fantasy Parade, Fox News reported.

Only last week, a computer glitch affected turnstiles used to enter Disneyland and California Adventure Park, keeping crowds waiting outside.

National Guard, CHP will tackle S.F. fentanyl crisis

[**Fentanyl,** from B1]
worked with local law enforcement agencies to target drug trafficking rings.

The announcement from the governor's office comes after Newsom visited the Tenderloin last week with state Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta and San Francisco Mayor London Breed.

"Our Police Department and District Attorney have been partnering to tackle this issue and increase enforcement, but our local agencies can use more support," Breed said in a statement.

"With the Governor's leadership and clear direction, our state enforcement agencies can partner with us to make a difference for our residents, businesses, and workers who are living with the impacts every day," Breed added.

San Francisco recorded 200 accidental overdose deaths from January to March, according to data from the medical examiner's office. That represents a 40% increase from the same period last year.

An analysis conducted by the San Francisco Chronicle shows that 52 of those deaths involved fentanyl. The Tenderloin has been one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods, representing about 23% of San Francisco's overdose deaths in 2020 and 2021, according to the Chronicle.

With the toll of the overdose crisis mounting, some local officials welcomed Newsom's announcement.

"THE CAVALRY IS COMING," San Francisco Supervisor Matt Dorsey tweeted.

But others derided the plan as a detail-thin publicity stunt and criticized the governor for vetoing a bill in 2022 that would have allowed supervised injection site programs in California's major cities.

"I hope that once the governor has gotten what he wants from this news cycle, he will partner with us on real solutions to improve health and safety in the Tenderloin," Preston said.

Suspect bought meth from undercover deputies, then fled

[**Sting,** from B1]
veillance plan in place so that other deputies besides those undercover are monitoring the site of the sting.

"The question is, was this operation completed within the guidelines and parameters of the department to maximize a positive result in the investigation?" Lujan said.

The department did not say what went wrong that allowed the suspect to escape with the drugs.

The department — which put out a news release after a reporter for the Desert Sun began asking about the incident — said the investigation was continuing.

The department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Obituaries

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Evelyn Canter

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
H. Hills 800-600-0076
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Ernest Phillip Colton

November 10, 1940 - April 14, 2023

Ernie passed away on Friday, April 14th, 2023 in Westlake Village, CA Of internal complications. Too much Fettuccine Alfredo. He was a native of LA for 82 years. He is survived by his brother Lee and his son Craig. Ernie was in the produce business most of his life and a short time in the entertainment industry. Ernie was most known for his sense of humor. There will be a celebration of life on Sunday May 7th, at 2PM at his home for family and friends.

Phyllis Cooper

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
Simi Valley 800-600-0076
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Stanley Deser

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
H. Hills 800-600-0076
mountsinaiparks.org

Denne Goldstein

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Barbara Yooko MATSUMOTO

Age 86, passed away on February 24, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Yoshitaka "Yoshi" Matsumoto; daughters, Myra (Tommy) Matsumoto-Wong, Karen Matsumoto and Nora Matsumoto; grandchildren, Tim Wong, Mikayla, Kaili and Kiana Heslin; siblings, Janice (Jack) Miike and Charlene (Paul) Fukunaga; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A private family service was held on Saturday, April 22 at Fukui Mortuary "Chapel in the Garden" in Los Angeles.

www.fukuimortuary.com

213-626-0441

Masami Nakayama

was born on Nov. 2, 1937 in Los Angeles, CA and passed away on April 17, 2023 at the CA Mission Inn in Rosemead, CA. When he was young, Masami and his family were sent to an internment camp in Poston, AZ for several years but were able to return to CA. Masami graduated from Roosevelt High School and enlisted in the US Army where he was honorably discharged in 1964. Masami enjoyed fishing with friends and later found a love for ballroom dancing. Masami is preceded by death by his parents Masaichi and Misao, and his sister Yoko. Masami is survived by his only child, Jennifer Nakayama, and numerous cousins.

A small burial service will be held at Evergreen cemetery on May 1, 2023 at 10 a.m.

www.fukuimortuary.com

(213) 626-0441

Takashi OKI

OKI, TAKASHI. Age 95 passed away peacefully on March 18, 2023 at his residence.

Beloved husband of Beverly Masaye Oki; father of Mike and Lyle Oki, Kari (Harvey) Moriyama and Stacy (Martin) Skredsvig; Grandfather of Michael, Kenny, David and Krissa; brother, Tom (Susie) Oki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Private funeral services were held on April 24th at Evergreen Baptist Church, San Gabriel Valley with Pastor Cory Ishida officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center

P.O. Box 282 West Covina, CA 91793-0282

www.fukuimortuary.com

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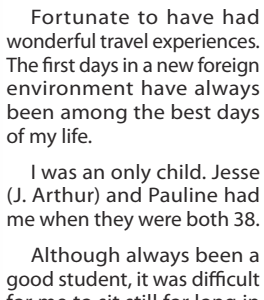

Peter Greenfield

December 23, 1929 - April 21, 2023

I am Peter, and yes, I died on the date above. I could never understand why people didn't write their own obituaries. Who better to report on a life than the person who lived it?

I have been very fortunate in life.

Fortunate in my work, which I began in 1952 when I was 22. Fortunate in my marriage, which also happened in 1952.

Fortunate with my children, who arrived from 1953 to 1961.

Fortunate with decent health through the years.

Fortunate to have had wonderful travel experiences. The first days in a new foreign environment have always been among the best days of my life.

I was an only child. Jesse (J. Arthur) and Pauline had me when they were both 38.

Although always been a good student, it was difficult for me to sit still for long in class (or anywhere else, as it turned out). This condition, known in Jewish as "shpilkes," has never left me--but thankfully, it has been tolerated by my family and other understanding people.

This inability to sit still, or to wait, is what I consider my major personal flaw: impatience.

I graduated high school in 1947. My parents wanted me to go to Stanford University, so I did. I was not happy at Stanford and switched to UC Berkeley without informing my parents. They were not pleased.

I soon realized that my best future would be as a CPA—I was good at math and my father headed a successful Los Angeles CPA firm.

In June 1950 I was admitted to UCLA. From that point on my life took form and blossomed. I met my wife and went to work at J. Arthur Greenfield & Co. (where I remained for my entire life, one of the oldest CPAs in the state) and we became parents of four children.

About my wife: Being married to Carol has been the best thing in my life. We had a loving and fulfilling 68+ years together until a long-dormant cancer took her away. Not a day goes by that I don't recall her bright smile and sweet face.

About my children: I love and respect them. And am proud of them. They are all accomplished in their chosen occupations - Glen (teacher); Gail (artist); Jon (security trader); Julie (college counselor).

Grandchildren and later generations are always a bonus. Emily (1982), Nicholas (1983), Joanna (1983), Isabel (1990, and Jesse (1994) are now adults. Natalie (2004), Sophie (2011), Charlotte (2014), Abigail (2017), and Alexander (2020) are a generation behind. They always make me smile.

Helping those in need over the years, I have continued to make substantial contributions to International Rescue Committee, Feeding America, UCLA and LACC scholarships for undocumented students, and local homeless organizations.

I've been fortunate to have had a wonderful life. It's time to leave it.

Peter

Rose Blekier Hadash

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
H. Hills 800-600-0076
mountsinaiparks.org

Richard Joel Leivenberg

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
H. Hills 800-600-0076
mountsinaiparks.org

Ann Spicer

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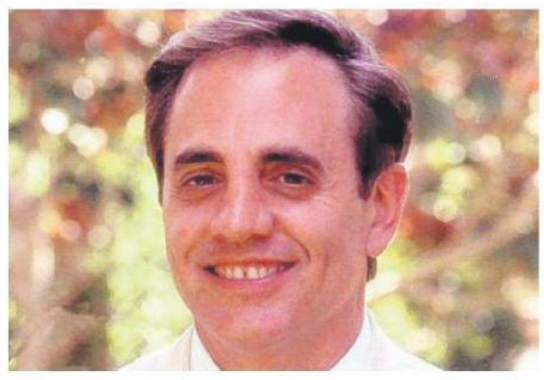


Leonard (Len) Ben Zimmelman

March 4, 1947 - April 9, 2023

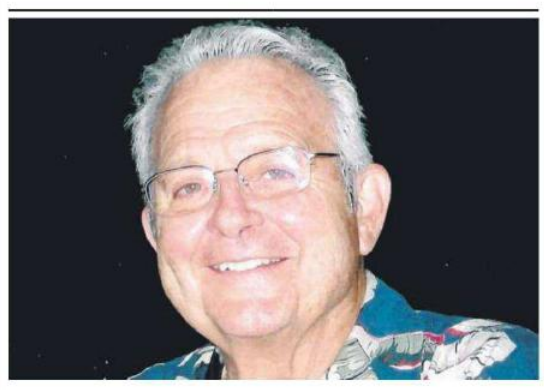
We are saddened to announce the passing of Len on Sunday April 9th from the insidious consequences of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) – commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease. After his diagnosis in early 2022, Len was steadfastly determined to remain in his gorgeous home and in a neighborhood overflowing with extraordinary friends who could not do enough to make his life as pleasant as possible. Some of the highlights in the last year were playing cards with his poker buddies, constantly maintaining his remarkable garden, visiting the nearby lake and passing out treats to the dogs who came to recognize him.

Len was born and raised in Los Angeles. He attended his local grade school and junior and high schools. In the late 1960's, he graduated from UCLA and then received his Master's Degree at Art Center College of Design in L.A., where he later taught classes to grateful students.

During Len's career as a creative and art director, he was responsible for some memorable ads, including the humpback whale breaching in the Pacific Life commercial and being assigned to manage Gary Coleman, whose ads for Cash Call can be found on YouTube. He was the creative director for commercials for Dole. Playboy was another client. He enjoyed teasing his brother with stories about work he did for "Hugh".

Len was an incredible son, husband, brother, uncle, stepfather, grandfather, brother-in-law and devoted friend. He is already deeply missed.

At his request, there will be no funeral. Donations can be made to the ALS Association http://weboc.alsa.org/goto/LenZimmelman or the Alzheimer's Association.



Alek John Haidos

May 10, 1930 - April 16, 2023

A Los Angeles native, Alek John Haidos was born on May 10, 1930. He lived with his parents Aggeliki and Pete Haidos and sister Milia (Zaferis) in their home located on what is now the University of Southern California (USC) campus. At an early age, he would proudly walk his pet goat down Vermont Avenue. Alek was an industrious little boy helping his family during those difficult Great Depression years by mowing lawns at the age of seven, passing out handbills to the Trojan Theatre for free admission, delivering newspapers and pumping gas at 11. He loved working on cars which became both a hobby and a source of employment throughout his school years. Alek graduated from Manual Arts High School in 1948 where he was a member of the Knights student service group, and president of student council. He attended the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) from 1950-1952, where he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and a member of Key Club. His university life was interrupted when Uncle Sam came calling and Alek spent two years in the United States Army during the conclusion of the Korean War. He was stationed in Nancy, France which allowed him to travel throughout Europe and to meet his family in Greece from his dad's village of Kato Soudena, Kalavryta and his mom's village of Kato Trikala, Korinthias in the Peloponnese. Upon his discharge from military service, Alek returned to UCSB with a 1953 Porsche making him "Big Man on Campus". He received his Bachelor of Arts in 1955 and went on to earn his Master of Science degree in education in 1958 from USC. As a budding entrepreneur, he sold his beloved Porsche for the down payment on a piece of property, giving him entry into the world of real estate, which became a secondary occupation. In 1957 he met Christine Panousis from San Pedro at the Greek Easter Picnic and a year later they were married. Alek frequently said this was the best decision he ever made. The couple was blessed with two children, Peter and Alexia. Alek, who could fix almost anything, enjoyed teaching Industrial Arts at Audubon Junior High, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), where his students frequently won awards for their skills. He was vice-principal at Venice Skill Center, East LA Occupational Center and Banning-Carson Community Adult School. He served as principal at Jordan-Locke, San Pedro and South Gate Community Adult Schools. His positive attitude brought a sense of calm to those challenging assignments. While assigned in the Los Angeles harbor area, Alek served as president of the San Pedro-Wilmington Coordinating Council and was a member of Kiwanis. He was president of American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) Neptune Chapter, chairman of AHEPA's District 20 Scholarship Foundation and a member of American Legion, Leonidas Post. A highlight was volunteering at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. He was also president of The Speculators, a stock club dedicated to fellowship and having fun. Shortly after retiring from LAUSD, Alek joined the staff of the College of Oceaneering, a commercial diving school, in Wilmington, California. Five years later, he and John Schwitters teamed up to purchase the school. This was a fitting culmination of his career in adult and vocational education. For decades Alek was deeply involved with Saint Sophia Cathedral. He served on the Parish Council, was chairman of the Camp Committee and for many years was a Trustee of the Saint Sophia Foundation. Drawing from his industrial arts background, his focus was the maintenance and preservation of his beloved church. A project close to his heart there was overseeing the construction of Saint Constantine Chapel. Alek enjoyed traveling the world with Christine and many dear friends, attending car shows with son Peter and being neighbors with daughter Alexia and son-in-law Mark on the same street in Rancho Palos Verdes. It was during those carefree later years that Alek discovered the wonders of Costco. "His" Costco was always on the way to somewhere. He would enter that Dreamland of Bargains and wonder how many of those fabulous deals he could take home without getting into deep trouble. Would it be the luscious five pound block of cheese for two? Two gallons of shampoo that only he used? Enough gas in the car? Only three quarters of a tank full? On April 16, 2023, Greek Orthodox Easter morning, Alek passed away peacefully in his sleep at the home he built, cherished and meticulously maintained. He was 92 years old. Always grateful, Alek recently said, "I've had a good life and wouldn't change anything." He was preceded in death by his dear father, cherished mother, proud in-laws Alexandra and James Panousis, loving sister, and cousin Soterios "Sam" Menzelos who was like a big brother. Alek is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years Christine (Panousis) Haidos, his adoring children Peter Haidos and Alexia (Mark) Itzigsohn; Mark's daughters Romy Itzigsohn (Greg Gilreath) and Mikelle Itzigsohn (Elvis Kuehn); nieces Vasiliki Sotiriou, Angelic Carroll, Diana Dearmin, Stacy Gullette and Janet Jones; nephews Demetrious Zaferis, Peter Zaferis, Theodore Zaferis, John Menzelos and George Menzelos; godchildren Marie Koulos Kokenis, Bill Hansen and Alek Alevizos as well as many relatives in Greece. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, April 27th at 10:30 A.M. at Saint Sophia Cathedral, 1324 S. Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90006.In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Saint Sophia Foundation, 1324 S. Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90006.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Sun returns: Marine air and moisture will keep it on the cool side again Tuesday, but clouds will give way to sunshine quicker than on Monday, with inland spots turning sunny by late morning. High pressure aloft will build Wednesday and Thursday, causing the marine layer to shrink, with more sunshine and rising temperatures. Light onshore flow will keep the weather from getting too warm near the coast.

5-day forecasts

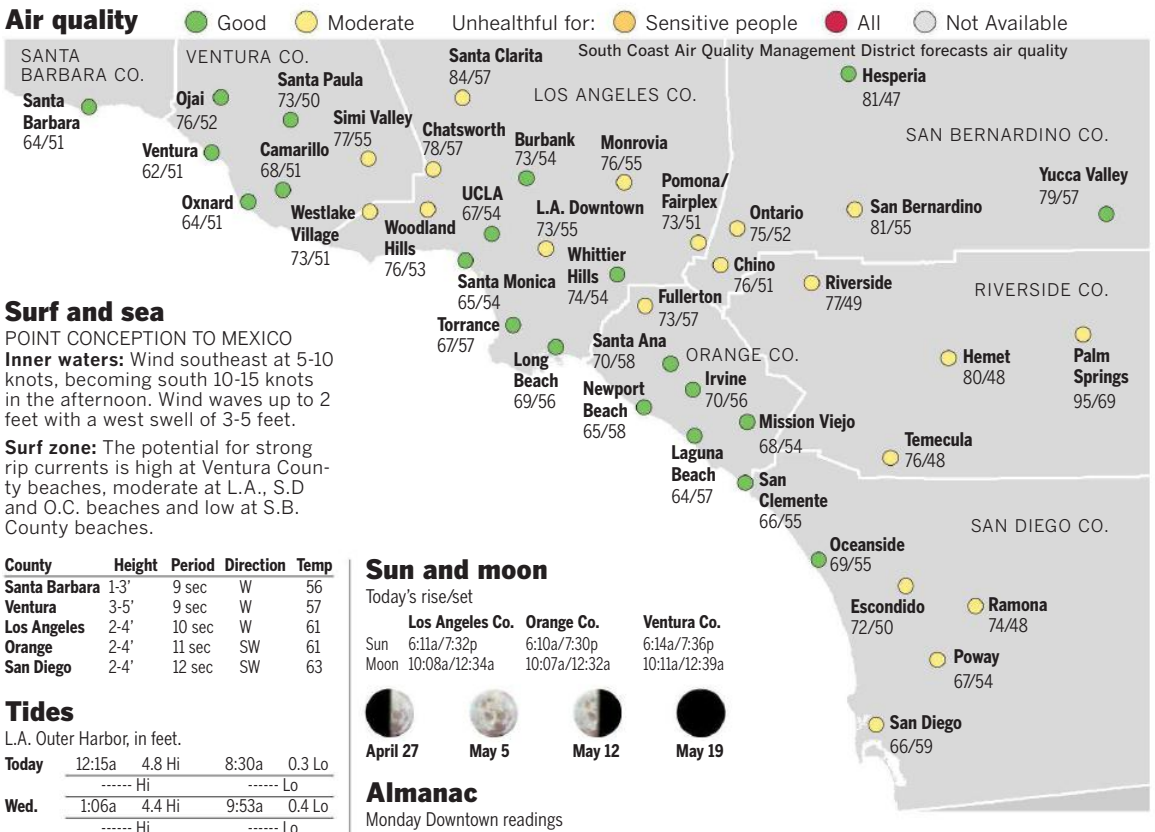
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	73|55		77|57		65|54		60|32		95|69	
	Turning sunny		Clearing		Clearing		Mostly sunny		Sunny	
Wednesday	Mostly sunny	79/55	Mostly sunny	84/60	Mostly sunny	68/55	Mostly sunny	64/32	Sunny; hot	96/72
Thursday	Partly sunny	77/56	Mostly sunny	84/58	Partly sunny	66/55	Mostly sunny	66/39	Hot	100/70
Friday	Partly sunny	79/57	Mostly sunny	83/58	Partly sunny	67/57	Mostly sunny	68/41	Hot	102/73
Saturday	Mostly sunny	81/59	Very warm	87/60	Partly sunny	71/56	Mostly sunny	70/41	Hot	103/75

Air quality

Good ● Moderate ● Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind southeast at 5-10 knots, becoming south 10-15 knots in the afternoon. Wind waves up to 2 feet with a west swell of 3-5 feet.

Surf zone: The potential for strong rip currents is high at Ventura County beaches, moderate at L.A., S.D and O.C. beaches and low at S.B. County beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	9 sec	W	56
Ventura	3-5'	9 sec	W	57
Los Angeles	2-4'	10 sec	W	61
Orange	2-4'	11 sec	SW	61
San Diego	2-4'	12 sec	SW	63

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	12:15a	4.8 Hi	8:30a	0.3 Lo
	------ Hi		------ Lo	
Wed.	1:06a	4.4 Hi	9:53a	0.4 Lo
	------ Hi		------ Lo	

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25 — Phoenix, 25

Los Angeles, 30 — San Francisco, 25

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:11a/7:32p	6:10a/7:30p	6:14a/7:36p
Moon	10:08a/12:34a	10:07a/12:32a	10:11a/12:39a

April 27 — May 5 — May 12 — May 19

Almanac

Monday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	71/60	72/58	64/53
Normal high/low	73/56	75/55	68/49
High/low a year ago	84/55	89/53	83/55
Record high/date	93/2020	101/2020	86/2020
Record low/date	44/1900	49/2006	40/1961

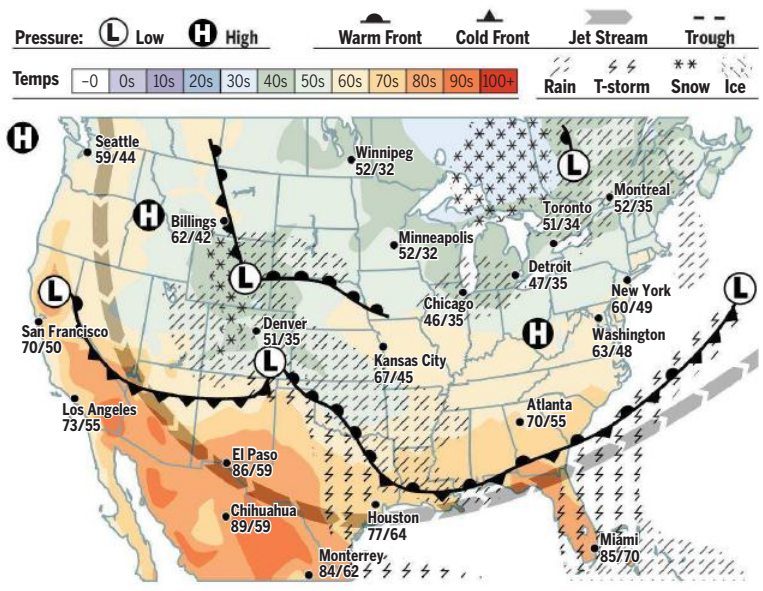
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	27.48	20.53	25.42
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.33
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	13.61	11.23	15.48
Humidity (high/low)	80/56	83/56	96/77

California cities

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Wed. Hi	Lo
Anaheim	73	58	--	73	55	81	53
Avalon/Catalina	63	51	--	65	53	74	57
Bakersfield	82	56	--	81	59	91	63
Barstow	90	61	--	87	58	87	60
Big Bear Lake	69	36	--	60	32	64	32
Bishop	84	37	--	79	43	79	45
Burbank	73	57	--	73	54	84	56
Camarillo	67	55	--	68	51	74	52
Chatsworth	81	56	--	78	57	83	56
Chino	74	53	--	76	51	88	52
Compton	70	57	--	72	56	78	54
Dana Point	64	57	--	64	56	70	54
Death Valley	100	75	--	94	80	94	74
Del Mar	64	56	--	61	56	65	56
Escondido	74	56	--	72	50	79	51
Eureka	56	44	--	60	45	64	49
Fallbrook	70	57	--	71	51	79	51
Fresno	85	56	--	83	58	89	58
Fullerton	72	58	--	73	57	84	56
Hemet	76	51	--	80	48	88	50
Hesperia	84	54	--	81	47	83	52
Huntington Beach	69	59	--	65	57	70	56
Idyllwild	74	38	--	68	52	75	52
Irvine	71	58	--	70	56	77	53
L.A. D'ntown/USC	71	60	--	73	55	79	55
L.A. Int'l. Airport	67	59	--	67	56	69	56
Laguna Beach	70	58	--	64	57	70	57
Lancaster	84	59	--	85	52	88	50
Long Beach	68	58	--	69	56	77	56
Mammoth Lakes	61	26	--	62	33	64	36
Mission Viejo	71	54	--	68	54	77	56
Monrovia	72	56	--	76	55	86	59
Monterey	60	47	--	65	50	69	52
Mt. Wilson	75	48	--	55	50	59	50
Needles	95	67	--	90	65	90	64
Newport Beach	63	57	--	65	58	70	57
Northridge	78	55	--	77	54	85	57
Oakland	67	45	--	72	48	77	52
Oceanside	67	59	--	69	55	77	53
Ojai	74	52	--	76	52	81	56
Ontario	74	54	--	75	52	86	55
Palm Springs	97	67	--	95	69	96	72
Pasadena	75	58	--	74	54	82	57
Paso Robles	81	47	--	84	44	85	48
Redding	81	46	--	84	60	89	57
Riverside	72	51	--	77	49	87	48
Sacramento	81	51	--	87	50	87	54
San Bernardino	73	55	--	81	55	88	58
San Diego	67	59	--	66	59	68	59
San Francisco	62	50	--	70	50	76	52
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	75	55	84	57
San Jose	72	47	--	76	51	84	55
San Luis Obispo	69	47	--	71	49	74	50
Santa Ana	68	59	--	70	58	75	58
Santa Barbara	64	52	--	64	51	66	54
Santa Clarita	81	54	--	84	57	88	59
Santa Monica Pier	65	56	--	65	54	68	55
Santa Paula	71	52	--	73	50	82	54
Santa Rosa	77	43	--	80	44	83	46
Simi Valley	73	52	--	77	55	83	51
Tahoe Valley	59	29	--	63	31	65	33
Temecula	73	55	--	76	48	87	50
Thousand Oaks	70	52	--	72	51	78	52
Torrance	70	57	--	67	57	69	56
UCLA	65	57	--	67	54	73	55
Van Nuys	77	57	--	75	55	87	57
Ventura	64	53	--	62	51	66	52
Whittier Hills	76	58	--	74	54	83	54
Woodland Hills	80	54	--	76	53	83	56
Wrightwood	71	45	--	64	47	70	47
Yorba Linda	74	57	--	73	53	83	53
Yosemite Valley	71	42	--	77	47	78	42

Today in North America

Snow and severe thunderstorms: A storm rolling out of the Rockies will dump snow on the mountains of Wyoming and Colorado. Showers and thunderstorms, some with hail and damaging wind gusts, will expand from southeast Colorado and New Mexico into central Texas.



U.S. cities

MONDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 100 in Death Valley, Calif.

Low 8 in Tower, Minn.

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	56	42	.06	56	37	Cy
Albuquerque	73	47	.05	69	42	Ts
Anchorage	38	23	--	44	32	Cy
Aspen	55	27	.02	46	27	R
Atlanta	69	50	Tr	70	55	Pc
Austin	69	53	--	70	63	Ts
Baltimore	61	40	--	62	44	Su
Boise	58	46	Tr	63	40	Su
Boston	56	47	.02	55	43	Sh
Buffalo	45	40	.33	50	37	Pc
Burlington, Vt.	50	43	.15	54	36	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	77	54	--	73	55	Pc
Charlotte	67	49	--	67	48	Pc
Chicago	54	36	--	46	35	Sh
Cincinnati	51	31	--	59	40	Cy
Cleveland	48	35	.08	50	37	R
Columbia, S.C.	68	56	--	71	53	Pc
Columbus	50	35	Tr	53	38	Cy
Dallas/Ft.Worth	70	45	--	65	58	Ts
Denver	65	34	--	51	35	R
Detroit	50	34	Tr	47	35	R
El Paso	86	49	--	86	59	W
Eugene	60	46	.05	67	41	Su
Fort Myers	90	71	--	87	67	Ts
Hartford	60	43	--	61	37	Pc
Honolulu	84	72	.04	83	72	Sh
Houston	74	54	--	77	64	Ts
Indianapolis	54	28	--	54	36	Sh
Jacksonville, Fla.	76	56	.03	77	61	Ts
Kansas City	67	34	--	67	45	Sh
Knoxville	63	37	--	64	45	Pc
Las Vegas	89	65	--	81	61	Su
Louisville	58	36	--	67	45	Cy
Medford	64	46	--	75	43	Su
Memphis	65	40	--	67	53	Sh
Miami	82	75	.98	85	70	Ts
Milwaukee	51	35	Tr	44	35	Sh
Minneapolis	49	32	--	52	32	Su
Nashville	62	36	--	69	48	Pc
New Orleans	70	60	Tr	79	65	Cy
New York	62	44	--	60	49	Pc
Norfolk	59	52	Tr	61	49	Su
Oklahoma City	62	37	Tr	53	47	R
Omaha	67	36	Tr	60	41	Cy
Orlando	82	66	--	82	65	Ts
Philadelphia	60	43	--	61	45	Pc
Phoenix	92	68	--	92	67	Su
Pittsburgh	47	36	.01	55	37	Pc
Portland, Ore.	59	47	Tr	67	44	Pc
Providence	61	42	--	59	40	Cy
Raleigh/Durham	67	48	--	67	45	Su
Reno	72	45	--	68	42	Su
Richmond	66	46	Tr	64	43	Su
St. Louis	64	36	--	69	46	Pc
Salt Lake City	66	46	.17	53	38	Sh
Seattle	58	45	.35	59	44	Pc
Tampa	84	69	--	85	68	Cy
Tucson	90	60	--	89	60	Su
Tulsa	69	41	Tr	55	47	R
Washington, D.C.	62	46	Tr	63	48	Su
Wichita	65	35	.03	52	46	R

World

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	88	74	--	87	73	Pc
Amsterdam	53	47	1.46	50	35	Sh
Athens	72	50	--	73	59	Pc
Bangkok	100	84	.07	100	81	Ts
Barcelona	68	57	--	67	57	Pc
Berlin	63	48	--	50	36	Sh
Cabo San Lucas	90	66	--	83	65	Su
Cairo	86	63	--	86	66	Su
Dubai	91	75	--	93	78	Su
Dublin	46	39	.36	50	40	Cy
Havana	88	67	--	87	67	Ts
Ho Chi Minh City	99	81	.22	97	81	Pc
Hong Kong	82	75	--	75	69	Ts
Istanbul	63	47	--	69	57	Pc
Jerusalem	68	54	--	71	49	Su
Johannesburg	78	54	--	77	57	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	93	77	.24	91	78	R
Lima	80	71	--	79	71	Pc
London	54	43	.34	55	39	Cy
Madrid	81	50	--	83	50	Pc
Mecca	103	72	--	102	79	Su
Mexico City	80	55	--	83	56	Pc
Montreal	48	43	.24	52	35	Cy
Moscow	68	43	--	66	50	Cy
Mumbai	90	79	--	91	81	Hz
New Delhi	90	71	--	93	74	Hz
Paris	58	45	.16	54	41	Cy
Prague	57	48	.28	52	34	Sh
Rome	68	59	.04	68	50	Pc
Seoul	70	47	.04	56	49	R
Singapore	90	78	.13	89	78	R
Taipei City	72	69	.10	76	63	Sh
Tokyo	59	47	Tr	66	58	Pc
Vancouver	54	39	.08	54	44	Pc
Vienna	59	54	.31	60	42	Ts

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Monday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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NHL PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Maple Leafs on verge of first series win in nearly two decades

CHRIS O'MEARA Associated Press

ALEX KILLORN shoots on Maple Leafs goalie Ilya Samsonov as a fallen Jake McCabe tries to block.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alexander Kerfoot scored on the power play at 4:14 of overtime after Toronto wiped out a three-goal deficit in the third period, and the Maple Leafs beat the host Tampa Bay Lightning 5-4 on Monday night to move to the verge of their first playoff series win in 19 years.

The Maple Leafs climbed out of a 4-1 hole with three goals — two by Auston Matthews and the equalizer by Morgan Rielly — in a span of 6 minutes 20 seconds and took a 3-1 series lead.

Toronto hasn't won a playoff series since 2004.

at Seattle 3, Colorado 2 (OT): Jordan Eberle scored on the power play three minutes into overtime as the Kraken tied the series 2-2.

It was the first playoff overtime game in franchise history for the Kraken, who lost leading scorer Jared McCann to an injury following a hit from Cale Makar.

Vegas 4, at Winnipeg 2: William Karlsson and Ivan Barbashev scored 47 seconds apart in the second period, and the Golden Knights held on to take a 3-1 lead in the series.

The Jets lost veteran star center Mark Scheifele to an upper-body injury, according to the team.

New Jersey 3, at New York Rangers 1: Jonas Siegenthaler scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period and Akira Schmid had 22 saves in another shutdown start as the Devils evened the series 2-2.

Etc.

Dallas Stars center Joe Pavelski (concussion protocol) skated with some teammates, but coach Pete DeBoer said the veteran is still not available to play.. ... Florida Panthers forward Matthew Tkachuk was fined $5,000 for cross-checking the Boston Bruins' Garnet Hathaway in Game 4. ... Defenseman Justin Braun, 36, retired after 13 NHL seasons.

Devils 3, Rangers 1

New Jersey	1	0	2	– 3
N.Y. Rangers	0	0	1	– 1

FIRST PERIOD: 1. N.J., J.Hughes 3 (Siegenthaler), 2:50. **Penalties**—Hamilton, N.J. (High Sticking), 14:17. Meier, N.J. (Delay of Game), 16:56. Tarasenko, N.Y.R (Tripping), 18:10.

SECOND PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties**—Trouba, N.Y.R (Interference), 4:20. Lazar, N.J. (Holding), 10:39.

THIRD PERIOD: 2. N.Y. Rangers, Trocheck 1 (Kane, Kreider), 1:42. 3. N.J., Siegenthaler 1 (Hischier, Hamilton), 8:22. 4. N.J., Palat 1 (Bratt, Haula), 19:34 (en). **Penalties**—None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: N.J. 8-8-7—23. N.Y. Rangers 10-6-7—23. Power-play Conversions—N.J. 0 of 2. N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3.

GOALIES: N.J., Schmid 2-0-0 (23 shots-22 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Shesterkin 2-2-0 (22-20). Att—18,006 (18,006). T—2:29. R—Jake Brenk, Francis Charron. L—Bryan Pancich, Andrew Smith.

Maple Leafs 5, Lightning 4

Toronto	0	1	3	1	– 5
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	0	– 4

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Tam., Killorn 1 (Hedman, Kucherov), 9:57 (pp). 2. Tam., Sergachev 1 (Kucherov, Point), 18:27. **Penalties**—Cirelli,T.B.(Cross Checking), 6:58. Rielly, TOR (Interference on breakaway (Penalty Shot)), 7:45. Nylander, TOR (Tripping), 9:24.

SECOND PERIOD: 3. Tor., Acciari 2 (Holl, O'Reilly), 4:51. 4. Tam., Stamkos 1 (Perbix, Hedman), 11:31. 5. Tam., Killorn 2 (Sergachev, Hagel), 18:49. **Penalties**—Hedman,T.B.(Roughing), 8:39. Tavares, TOR (High Sticking), 13:29. Sergachev,T.B.(Roughing), 19:17. Brodie, TOR (Roughing), 19:17. McCabe, TOR (Cross Checking), 20:00.

THIRD PERIOD: 6. Tor., Matthews 2 (Nylander, Marner), 9:44. 7. Tor., Matthews 3 (Giordano, Nylander), 12:29 (pp). 8. Tor., Rielly 2 (O'Reilly, Marner), 16:04. **Penalties**—Bogosian,T.B.(Hooking), 11:16.

OVERTIME: 9. Tor., Kerfoot 1 (Nylander, Giordano), 4:14 (pp). **Penalties**—Sergachev,T.B.(Tripping), 2:28.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Tor. 5-14-12-6—37. T.B. 12-7-11-1—31. Power-play Conversions—Tor. 2 of 4. T.B. 1 of 3.

GOALIES: Tor., Samsonov 3-1-0 (31 shots-27 saves). Tam., Vasilevskiy 1-2-1 (37-32). Att—19,092 (19,092). T—2:57. R—Chris Rooney, Graham Skilliter. L—Scott Cherrey, Brandon Gawryletz.

Golden Knights 4, Jets 2

Vegas	1	2	1	–	4
Winnipeg	1	0	1	–	2

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Wheeler 2 (Niederreiter, Pionk), 5:53 (pp). 2, Vegas, Howden 1 (Stephenson), 9:53. Penalties—Martinez, LV (Interference), 4:52.

Second Period—3, Vegas, Karlsson 3 (Marchessault, Theodore), 13:32. 4, Vegas, Barbashev 1 (Stephenson, Theodore), 14:19. Penalties—DeMelo, WPG (Tripping), 0:57; Dubois, WPG (Tripping), 11:30.

Third Period—5, Winnipeg, Dubois 2 (Wheeler, Pionk), 2:57 (pp). 6, Vegas, Howden 2 (Stone), 19:43 (en). Penalties—Amadio, LV (Holding), 2:47; DeMelo, WPG (Roughing), 8:20; Amadio, LV (Roughing), 8:20.

Shots on Goal—Vegas 10-11-9—30. Winnipeg 10-8-10—28.

Power-play opportunities—Vegas 0 of 2; Winnipeg 2 of 2.

Goalies—Vegas, Brossoit 3-1-0 (26 shots-24 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 1-3-0 (29-26).

A—15,324 (15,321). T—2:31.

Referees—Jean Hebert, Kyle Rehman. Linesmen—Steve Barton, James Tobias.

Kraken 3, Avalanche 2

Colorado	0	2	0	0	– 2
Seattle	2	0	0	1	– 3

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Seattle, Borgen 1 (Tanev, Larsson), 3:56. 2. Seattle, Sprong 1 (Schultz), 10:09 (pp). **Penalties**—Nieto, COL (Boarding), 1:12. Newhook, COL (High Sticking), 4:04. Gourde, SEA (Roughing), 7:23. Makar, COL (Interference), 8:24. Dunn, SEA (Roughing), 20:00. Lehkonen, COL (Roughing), 20:00. O'Connor, COL (Roughing), 20:00.

SECOND PERIOD: 3. Col., Rantanen 4 (Rodrigues, MacKinnon), 14:08. 4. Col., Rantanen 5 (Girard, Compher), 19:10 (pp). **Penalties**—Borgen, SEA (Holding), 17:13.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties**—Larsson, SEA (High Sticking), 7:27.

OVERTIME: 5. Seattle, Eberle 1 (Schwartz, Sprong), 3:00 (pp). **Penalties**—Manson, COL (Tripping), 1:59.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Col. 6-6-8-1—21. Seattle 18-12-9-3—42. Power-play Conversions—Col. 1 of 3. Seattle 2 of 5.

GOALIES: Col., Georgiev 2-2-0 (43 shots-39 saves). Seattle, Grubauer 2-2-0 (21-20). Att—17,151 (17,100). T—3:00. R—Eric Furlatt, Trevor Hanson. L—Travis Gawryletz, Jonny Murray.

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

P1 Vegas vs. WC2 Winnipeg

Golden Knights lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Winnipeg 5, Vegas 1
Gm 2	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2
Gm 3	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 4 (2OT)
Gm 4	Vegas 4, Winnipeg 2
Gm 5	Thursday at Vegas, 7
Gm 6	Saturday at Winn., TBD*
Gm 7	Monday at Vegas, TBD*

P2 Edmonton vs. P3 KINGS

Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	KINGS 4, Edmonton 3 (OT)
Gm 2	Edmonton 4, KINGS 2
Gm 3	KINGS 3, Edmonton 2 (OT)
Gm 4	Edmonton 5, KINGS 4 (OT)
Gm 5	Tonight at Edmonton, 6:30
Gm 6	Saturday at Kings, TBD
Gm 7	Monday at Edm., TBD*

C1 Colorado vs. WC1 Seattle

Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Seattle 3, Colorado 1
Gm 2	Colorado 3, Seattle 2
Gm 3	Colorado 6, Seattle 4
Gm 4	Seattle 3, Colorado 2 (OT)
Gm 5	Wed. at Colorado, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Seattle, TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Colorado, TBD*

C2 Dallas vs. C3 Minnesota

Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Minnesota 3, Dallas 2 (2OT)
Gm 2	Dallas 7, Minnesota 3
Gm 3	Minnesota 5, Dallas 1
Gm 4	Dallas 3, Minnesota 2
Gm 5	Today at Dallas, 5
Gm 6	Friday at Minnesota, TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Dallas, TBD*

* if necessary

EASTERN CONFERENCE

A1 Boston vs. WC2 Florida

Bruins lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Boston 3, Florida 1
Gm 2	Florida 6, Boston 3
Gm 3	Boston 4, Florida 2
Gm 4	Boston 6, Florida 2
Gm 5	Wednesday at Boston, 4
Gm 6	Friday at Florida, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Boston, TBD*

A2 Toronto vs. A3 Tampa Bay

Maple Leafs lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 3
Gm 2	Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 2
Gm 3	Toronto 4, T. Bay 3 (OT)
Gm 4	Toronto 5, T. Bay 4 (OT)
Gm 5	Thursday at Toronto, 4
Gm 6	Sat. at Tampa Bay, TBD*
Gm 7	Monday at Toronto, TBD*

M1 Carolina vs. WC1 Islanders

Hurricanes lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Carolina 2, Islanders 1
Gm 2	Carolina 4, Islanders 3 (OT)
Gm 3	Islanders 5, Carolina 1
Gm 4	Carolina 5, Islanders 2
Gm 5	Today at Carolina, 4
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Carolina, TBD*

M2 New Jersey vs. M3 Rangers

Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 2	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 3	N. Jersey 2, Rangers 1 (OT)
Gm 4	New Jersey 3, Rangers 1
Gm 5	Thurs. at New Jersey, 4:30
Gm 6	Saturday at N.Y., TBD
Gm 7	Monday at N.J., TBD*

All times PDT, unless noted

Kings learn lesson from lost lead and like their energy for Game 5

[**Kings,** from B10]

Kevin Fiala, ran out to a 3-0 lead. But that was followed by the second period, when two power-play goals allowed the Oilers to tie the score. The Kings blew another lead in the third period before losing 5-4 in overtime.

So rather than heading to Canada with a chance to win a playoff series for the first time in nine years, the Kings' meltdown assured them there will be a Game 6 in L.A. on Saturday.

"I think the lesson there is we just need to bear down and find a way to win those games. We can't give those games back this time of year," defenseman Matt Roy said when asked what he learned. "Once the game is over, you've just got to focus on the next game and just keep moving forward."

One advantage the Kings might have in doing that is their roster, which, with an average age of 26.7 years, is the second-youngest of the 16 playoff teams, according to CapFriendly. Tuesday's game will be the fifth in nine days, and three of the previous four went to overtime, meaning both teams have played a lot of hockey in a short amount of time.

"We have energy, and I think that's going to be good for us," said Roy, whose go-ahead score in the third period Sunday was his first postseason goal.

That youth is tempered with experience, as the young Kings battled the Oilers in a seven-game playoff series last spring. So for McLellan, the kind of boost Roy was talking about needs to come from the bench.

"The energy level has to come from some of the players maybe that don't play as many minutes. When you're on the bench and you're maybe not going the next shift, you have to bring something," McLellan said. "It's a skill that's never taught. It's never talked about because every kid that comes into the league is a superstar. They never have to behave or act [like a bench player] until they end up on a third or fourth line.

"That's part of us needing to reach them that they're important even when they're not on the ice. They can bring something to the group or to the team."

Asked for an example of a player who has applied those lessons, McLellan pointed to defenseman Mikey Anderson, who has earned himself a spot next to Drew Doughty on the Kings' top blue-line pairing.

"He's watched, he's learned, he's witnessed others do it," McLellan said. "And now he's passing it on to the rest of the group."

The Kings won't have to worry about surprises in Edmonton. Tuesday's game will be the 20th against the Oilers over the last two seasons, more than twice as many as L.A. has played against anyone else.

"The experience of having played them now 19 times gives everybody an understanding of what it feels like to play day after day against them. And I don't think there's a surprised individual on either team, or in either organization, that it's gone this way," McLellan said.

"We're in a best of three now," he continued. "If somebody said — 'you know what ... let's just start in Game 5 all even,' we'd take a swing at that. And that's what we're doing."

Consider it a learning curve.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Jets agree to acquire four-time MVP Rodgers from Packers

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The New York Jets agreed on a deal Monday to acquire quarterback **Aaron Rodgers**, a four-time NFL most valuable player, from the Green Bay Packers, according to a person with knowledge of the trade. The person spoke to the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the teams had not officially announced the deal.

Packers general manager **Brian Gutekunst** said the deal should be completed before the NFL draft begins Thursday.

The Jets will receive Rodgers, the No. 15 overall pick and a fifth-rounder this year from the Packers. In exchange, Green Bay will get the 13th overall selection, a second-rounder (No. 42) and a sixth-rounder this year and a conditional 2024 second-round pick that can become a first-rounder if Rodgers plays 65% of plays for New York next season.

The Jets also re-signed durable center **Connor McGovern**, addressing one of the team's major needs.

Contract terms weren't immediately available.

The Arizona Cardinals and owner **Michael Bidwill** deny they are liable to front-office executive **Terry McDonough** for any claims he made against the team in a demand for arbitration, and say his "erratic behavior eventually damaged his career." ... The New York Giants signed defensive tackle **A'Shawn Robinson** to a one-year contract. The 28-year-old former Alabama player won a Super Bowl with the Rams in the 2021 season. ... New general manager **Ran Carthon** confirmed the Tennessee Titans asked two-time All-Pro safety **Kevin Byard** to take a pay cut earlier this year. ... The Baltimore Ravens re-signed defensive back **Kevon Seymour**. Also, backup quarterback **Tyler Huntley** signed his restricted free-agent tender.

ETC.

UCLA golf coach Forsyth retiring

Next month's NCAA women's golf championships will be **Carrie Forsyth's** last. UCLA's two-time national championship-winning coach announced her retirement. During her 24-year head coaching tenure, Forsyth led her alma mater to NCAA titles in 2004 and 2011 and second-place finishes in 2005, 2008 and 2009.

Among 106 All-American awards for her players, she led six players to conference golfer of the year awards and guided two — **Alison Lee** and **Bronte Law** — to the ANNIKA Award, the top individual honor for Division I women's golf. UCLA's five Pac-12 championships under Forsyth ranks second in conference history and lead all active coaches, while her six Pac-10/12 coach of the year awards are the most all time.

— THUC NHI NGUYEN

While **Deion Sanders** has used the transfer portal to rebuild Colorado, a number of Buffaloes have done the same, including holdover wide receiver **Montana Lemonious-Craig**. The others who announced their entry in the transfer portal include receivers **Jordyn Tyson** and **Chase Sowell**, outside linebacker **Shakaun Bowser**, defensive backs **Tyrin Taylor** and **Jason Oliver**, running back **Deion Smith** and offensive lineman **Alex Harkey**.

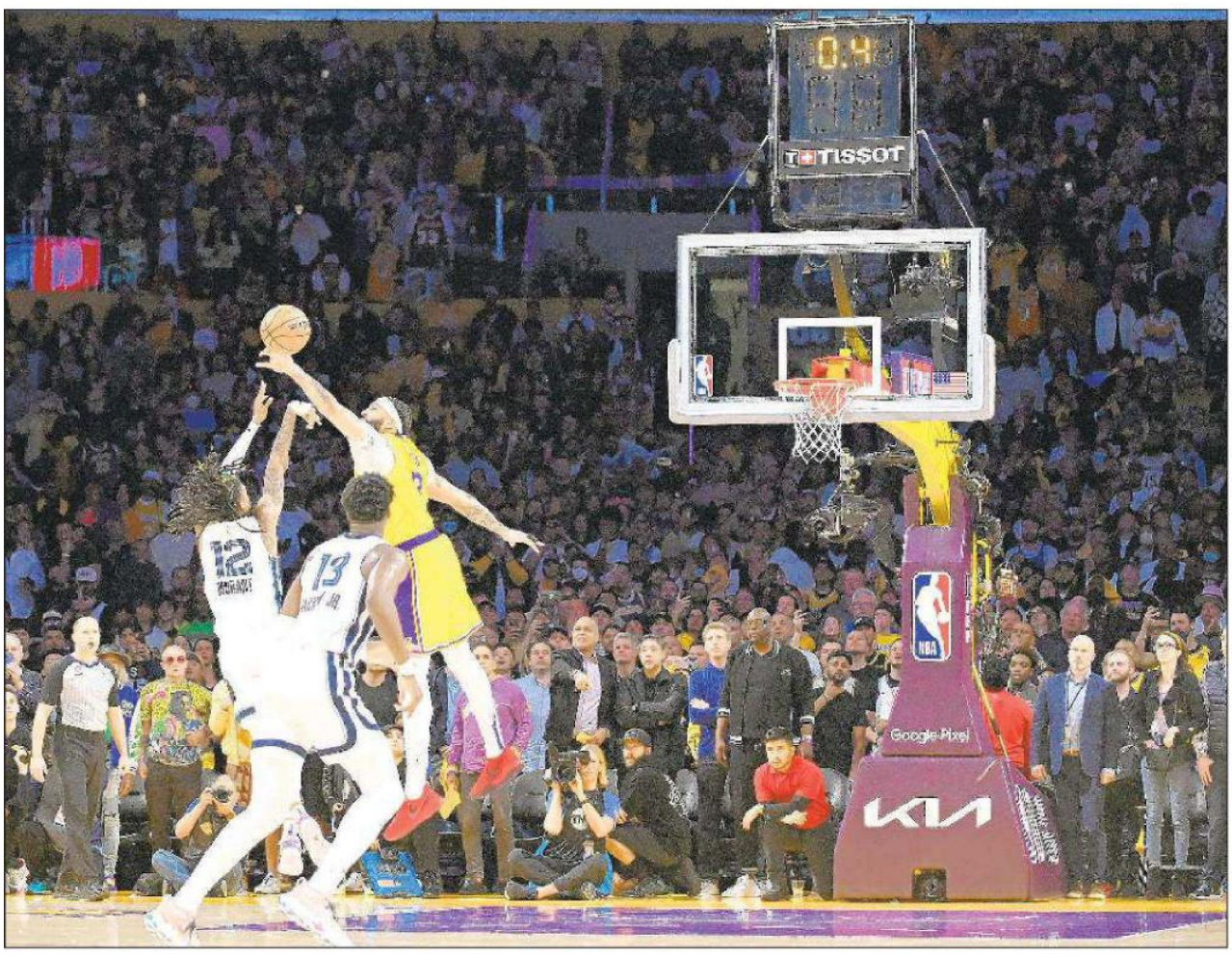
Former Wichita State player **Jaykwon Walton**, who had previously announced plans to transfer to Alabama, was arrested on a charge of second-degree possession of marijuana. As a result, Alabama has stopped recruiting him.

Two-time Tour de France champion **Tadej Pogacar** underwent surgery in Belgium to repair a broken left wrist suffered in a weekend crash.

Herb Douglas, who turned a chance encounter with **Jesse Owens** as a teenager into fuel to win a bronze medal in the long jump at the 1948 Olympics, died. He was 101.

Defending champion **Ons Jabeur** pulled out of the Madrid Open because of an injured left calf, hampering her preparation for the French Open next month.

Four contenders are competing to host the 2027 Women's World Cup, FIFA confirmed, days after the joint U.S.-Mexico bid entered the race. Brazil, South Africa and the European project are also candidates.



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

LAKERS FORWARD Anthony Davis blocks Ja Morant's shot in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter in Game 4. Davis finished with four blocks and added 12 points and 11 rebounds to help Los Angeles win in OT.

Lakers can close out series on road

[**Lakers,** from B10]

Jr.

Reaves led the Lakers with 23 points as Davis could scratch together only 12.

But when the Lakers needed it, with a chance to take the lead in the final seconds with a 3-1 lead on the line, James and Davis couldn't find the big play.

James did find a cutting Rui Hachimura, one of the stars of the first three games, with 10.8 seconds left, but Jaren Jackson Jr. quickly erased the dunk at the rim, with the Grizzlies scoring in transition.

But the clock hadn't expired and finally, with 0.8 seconds left, James got the hoop.

Desmond Bane led Memphis with 36, but the Lakers held All-Stars Morant and Jackson to 33 combined points on 13-for-39 shooting.

For most of the regular season and especially down the stretch, the Lakers made up for so many of their offensive deficiencies by getting to the free-throw line, where they led the NBA in attempts by a big margin.

The Lakers attempted 26.6 free throws per game, and their 20.6 makes were second only to Philadelphia.

For the first time this series, the Lakers eclipsed that 26.6 mark in attempts, getting there 27 times in Game 3.

On Monday, they took 31, the trips stacking in the second half as the Lakers fought back.

The start for Davis mirrored Game 2, when he was almost entirely ineffective on the offensive end with the Lakers aggressively trying to get him the ball from the tip.

After starring in Game 3, Davis regressed with the Grizzlies holding him without a field goal until the second half.

Compounding problems, Davis went to the floor hard after missing at full speed in transition, landing on his right side in the second quarter. He grabbed at his right hip for the remainder of the half. Luckily for the Lakers, they didn't need Davis, James or Russell to do a lot of the offensive work early.

"You've got to have a short memory," Ham said. "... And he just kept fighting through."

In the final four-plus minutes of the first half, the Grizzlies pressured the Lakers by turning up their defensive pressure.

The Lakers missed their last seven field goals of the quarter as the Grizzlies closed to within two.

The Lakers fought back to tie the score on Hachimura's corner three, but Morant beat the buzzer with a one-handed slam over Hachimura to keep Memphis in front, setting the stage for James and the Lakers to grab control.

Now they're on the cusp of advancing because of James' heroics.

"He's nothing short of amazing," Ham said.

Suns wing Wainright encouraged by Lue

[**Clippers,** from B10]

en-game series doubling as a reunion. Suns guard Chris Paul against his ex-team. Russell Westbrook against former Oklahoma City teammate Kevin Durant. Suns coach Monty Williams and Nicolas Batum, 15 years after their mentorship began in Portland.

Lesser known is the connection between Wainright, who is in his second season as a Suns wing, and the Clippers coach. It was sparked 15 years ago through a mutual friend and history, with both playing high school basketball in Raytown, Mo. Lue endured in the NBA for 11 years as an undersized guard through guile and sheer confidence, an example Wainright said helped keep his own confidence.

"He encourages me because I know it's possible," Wainright said. "I know things are not going to go the way that I wanted, and I'm going to be patient. He was patient, and that's what I look up to. Ty did it, why can't I do it? I'm not going to say I'm going to be an 11-year pro-slash-future Hall of Fame coach, but I'm going to do whatever I got to do to stay in this league and make my way through all the tough times."

::

In the mid-1990s, Lue moved from his tiny hometown of Mexico, Mo., to attend high school in Raytown, a small community southeast of Kansas City's downtown. He quickly became a star for the Bluejays, and watching his every crossover was Earl Watson, a point guard from Kansas City who was two years younger.

Watson and Lue eventually played on the same travel team, the Kansas City 76ers, and remained friends. Lue went to Nebraska, Watson to UCLA, and both began long playing and coaching careers in the NBA. Each followed the local basketball scene, and Watson sponsored travel teams, one of which featured a middle school-aged Wainright.

Watson brought the team to play pickup games in Las Vegas and UCLA, throwing teens not yet old enough to hold a driving permit into summer runs featuring professionals such as Ryan Hollins and retired All-Stars such as Mark Jackson. That's where Lue saw Wainright the first time. Standing nearly 6-5 and a "freak of nature" athlete, as Lue said, Wainright more than held his own.

Watson, Lue and Wainright all recalled one game stopping when one of the veterans — Watson believes it was Bryon Russell, a 13-year pro — posed a question to the dunking Wainright: How old are you, exactly?

"I'm only 13," Wainright recalled.

"He was big as hell," Lue said. "He was still pretty much the same height in eighth grade, and he was just dominating. It wasn't even close."

While others were watching Wainright, he was watching Watson and Lue as they jumped into games.

"We have a competitive edge," Wainright said. "[Lue] knows, because I got it from them. They taught me to be competitive even more."

Cut by the Bills and hearing no interest from other NFL teams, Wainright returned to basketball at a lower-division team in the German league, then played the 2020-21 season in Strasbourg, France.

In 2021, he received an invite to Toronto's Summer League team and training camp roster.

Cut by the Raptors before the regular season began, Wainright quickly signed a two-way contract with Phoenix. That November, at age 27, he made his NBA debut.

"I'm just happy for him," Lue said.

Wainright appeared in 45 games as a rookie, then saw his minutes nearly triple this season in 60 appearances.

The Suns hold a team option for Wainright's contract next season, making his NBA future anything but guaranteed. Yet he is undeterred. A key reason why is a message he heard from Lue.

"He's like: 'You deserve to be in this league. It took a little time, but you're here and you're going to stay for a long period of time,' " Wainright said of advice from Lue. "So that's what clicks in my head every day I wake up. I was made for this league. I'm going to be here for a long time."

Leonard out

Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, who missed Games 3 and 4 of the series because of a sprained right knee, was listed as out for Game 5 on the injury report.

LAKERS 117, MEMPHIS 111

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brooks	40	4-11	2-2	1-5	4	5	11
Jackson Jr.	42	5-15	4-5	6-14	1	4	14
Tillman	41	5-9	2-2	2-8	6	5	12
Bane	46	13-29	7-7	2-7	3	4	36
Morant	44	8-24	2-4	3-4	7	3	19
Roddy	19	3-10	1-1	1-5	2	2	9
Kennard	13	2-4	0-0	1-4	1	2	6
Jones	8	1-2	0-0	0-1	2	0	2
Aldama	7	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	1	2
Totals		**42-106**	**18-21**	**16-49**	**26**	**26**	**111**

Shooting: Field goals, 39.6%; free throws, 85.7%

Three-point goals: 9-42 (Bane 3-12, Kennard 2-4, Roddy 2-6, Morant 1-6, Brooks 1-7, Aldama 0-1, Jones 0-1, Tillman 0-1, Jackson Jr. 0-4). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Jackson Jr. 5, Morant, Tillman). Turnovers: 13 (Jackson Jr. 4, Morant 4, Bane 3, Brooks, Tillman). Steals: 7 (Morant 3, Aldama 2, Bane, Tillman). Technical Fouls: None.

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
James	45	8-18	5-7	5-20	7	3	22
Vanderbilt	19	6-9	1-2	3-6	1	0	15
Davis	41	4-13	4-6	2-11	2	3	12
Reaves	41	7-16	7-8	0-4	6	4	23
Russell	28	7-15	0-0	0-1	3	6	17
Schroder	30	3-5	6-6	0-0	1	1	12
Hachimura	26	2-9	2-2	1-6	1	0	7
Brown Jr.	21	3-5	0-0	2-4	1	0	6
Beasley	9	1-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Totals		**41-94**	**25-31**	**13-52**	**22**	**17**	**117**

Shooting: Field goals, 43.6%; free throws, 80.6%

Three-point goals: 10-36 (Russell 3-8, Reaves 2-5, Vanderbilt 2-5, Beasley 1-3, Hachimura 1-4, James 1-7, Davis 0-1, Schroder 0-1, Brown Jr. 0-2). Team Rebounds: 14. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 11 (Davis 4, Vanderbilt 3, James 2, Schroder 2). Turnovers: 15 (Davis 4, Reaves 3, Schroder 3, Russell 2, Vanderbilt 2, James). Steals: 5 (Davis 2, Schroder 2, Reaves). Technical Fouls: Lakers, 4:32 second

Memphis	**23**	**29**	**31**	**21**	**7—111**
Lakers	**29**	**25**	**27**	**23**	**13—117**

A—18,997. T—2:54.

Miami 119, Milwaukee 114

MILWAUKEE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
G.Anttkounmpo	38	12-22	2-4	3-10	13	3	26
Middleton	37	4-12	4-4	2-6	8	6	14
Lopez	38	13-23	6-6	7-11	0	2	36
Allen	33	2-6	2-2	0-0	0	1	8
Holiday	40	6-19	0-0	0-7	4	4	14
Connaughton	20	2-8	3-4	1-6	1	2	8
Ingles	18	1-1	0-0	1-2	2	2	3
Portis	12	2-6	0-0	2-4	0	0	5
Carter	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**42-97**	**17-20**	**16-46**	**28**	**20**	**114**

Shooting: Field goals, 43.3%; free throws, 85.0%

Three-point goals: 13-40 (Lopez 4-7, Allen 2-5, Middleton 2-5, Holiday 2-11, Ingles 1-1, Portis 1-4, Connaughton 1-6, G.Antetokounmpo 0-1). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Lopez 3, G.Antetokounmpo 2, Holiday). Turnovers: 14 (G.Antetokounmpo 6, Middleton 3, Lopez 2, Portis 2, Holiday). Steals: 10 (Allen 2, Holiday 2, Lopez 2, Connaughton, G.Antetokounmpo, Ingles, Middleton). Technical Fouls: None.

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Butler	40	19-28	15-18	4-9	2	0	56
Love	22	2-6	0-0	1-7	2	4	6
Adebayo	30	6-16	3-3	2-8	2	3	15
Strus	17	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	0
Vincent	28	4-13	0-0	0-2	8	4	10
Robinson	30	3-5	0-0	0-4	1	1	9
Martin	24	4-5	2-2	1-9	1	2	12
Lowry	23	3-7	0-0	1-4	5	1	6
Highsmith	14	1-4	0-0	0-3	0	1	3
Zeller	7	1-2	0-2	0-1	0	1	2
Totals		**43-87**	**20-25**	**9-47**	**21**	**20**	**119**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.4%; free throws, 80.0%

Three-point goals: 13-32 (Robinson 3-4, Butler 3-8, Martin 2-3, Love 2-5, Vincent 2-6, Highsmith 1-3, Strus 0-1, Lowry 0-2). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Love 2, Adebayo, Butler, Lowry). Turnovers: 15 (Vincent 5, Adebayo 3, Lowry 3, Strus 2, Butler, Robinson). Steals: 9 (Martin 2, Vincent 2, Adebayo, Highsmith, Love, Lowry, Robinson). Technical Fouls: None.

Milwaukee	**33**	**24**	**32**	**25**	**—114**
Miami	**28**	**22**	**28**	**41**	**—119**

A—19,614. T—2:34.

NBA ROUNDUP

Butler pours in 56 and forces Bucks to brink

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jimmy Butler scored a Miami playoff-record 56 points, and the host Heat roared back from 14 points down in the final quarter to stun the Milwaukee Bucks 119-114 on Monday night to put the NBA's top overall seed on the brink of elimination.

The 56 points also were Butler's career high. He was 19 for 28 from the field, 15 for 18 from the foul line, and added nine rebounds for eighth-seeded Miami — which took a 3-1 lead over Milwaukee in their Eastern Conference first-round series.

Game 5 is at Milwaukee on Wednesday.

Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from a two-game absence with a bruised back and recorded a triple-double — 26 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists.

Rockets hire Udoka

Ime Udoka was hired as the new coach of the Houston Rockets, a source familiar with the deal told the Associated Press.

Udoka led Boston to the NBA Finals last season, then was suspended for this season after the disclosure of an inappropriate relationship with a female Celtics employee.

Etc.

Sacramento star guard De'Aaron Fox broke the index finger on his shooting hand and is doubtful to play in Wednesday's Game 5 of the Kings' first-round series against Golden State. ... Atlanta guard Dejounte Murray was suspended for Game 5 of the playoff series against Boston for making inappropriate contact with an official and verbal abuse. ... Utah forward Lauri Markkanen won the most improved player award.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE
FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

1 Denver vs. 8 Minnesota
Nuggets lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Denver 109, Minnesota 80
Gm 2	Denver 122, Minnesota 113
Gm 3	Denver 120, Minnesota 111
Gm 4	Minn. 114, Denver 108 (OT)
Gm 5	Today at Denver, 6
Gm 6	Thurs. at Minnesota, TBD*
Gm 7	Sat. at Denver, TBD*

2 Memphis vs. 7 LAKERS
Lakers lead series 3-1

Gm 1	LAKERS 128, Memphis 112
Gm 2	Memphis 103, LAKERS 93
Gm 3	LAKERS 111, Memphis 101
Gm 4	LAKERS 117, Mem. 111 (OT)
Gm 5	Wed. at Memphis, 4:30
Gm 6	Friday at LAKERS, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Memphis, TBD*

3 Sacramento vs. 6 Golden State
Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Sacramento 126, G.S. 123
Gm 2	Sacramento 114, G.S. 106
Gm 3	G.S. 114, Sacramento 97
Gm 4	G.S. 126, Sacramento 125
Gm 5	Wed. at Sac., 7
Gm 6	Friday at G.S., TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Sac., TBD*

4 Phoenix vs. 5 CLIPPERS
Suns lead series 3-1

Gm 1	CLIPPERS 115, Phoenix 110
Gm 2	Phnx. 123, CLIPPERS 109
Gm 3	Phoenix 129, CLIPPERS 124
Gm 4	Phnx. 112, CLIPPERS 100
Gm 5	Today at Phoenix, 7
Gm 6	Thurs. at CLIPPERS, TBD*
Gm 7	Sat. at Phoenix, TBD*

EASTERN CONFERENCE

1 Milwaukee vs. 8 Miami
Heat lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Miami 130, Milwaukee 117
Gm 2	Milwaukee 138, Miami 122
Gm 3	Miami 121, Milwaukee 99
Gm 4	Miami 119 Milwaukee 114
Gm 5	Wed. at Milwaukee, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Miami, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Milwaukee, TBD*

2 Boston vs. 7 Atlanta
Celtics lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Boston 112, Atlanta 99
Gm 2	Boston 119, Atlanta 106
Gm 3	Atlanta 130, Boston 122
Gm 4	Boston 129, Atlanta 121
Gm 5	Today at Boston, 4:30
Gm 6	Thursday at Atlanta, TBD*
Gm 7	Saturday at Boston, TBD*

3 Philadelphia vs. 6 Brooklyn
76ers win series 4-0

Gm 1	Phila. 121, Brooklyn 101
Gm 2	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 84
Gm 3	Phila. 102, Brooklyn 97
Gm 4	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 88

4 Cleveland vs. 5 New York
Knicks lead series 3-1

Gm 1	New York 101, Cleveland 97
Gm 2	Cleveland 107, New York 90
Gm 3	New York 99, Cleveland 79
Gm 4	New York 102, Cleveland 93
Gm 5	Wed. at Cleveland, 4
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Cleveland, TBD*

* if necessary

All times PDT, unless noted

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Arizona	13	11	.542	–	5-5
DODGERS	12	11	.522	½	5-5
San Diego	12	12	.500	1	5-5
San Francisco	9	13	.409	3	4-6
Colorado	7	17	.292	6	2-8
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Pittsburgh	16	7	.696	–	8-2
Milwaukee	15	8	.652	1	6-4
Chicago	12	9	.571	3	6-4
St. Louis	9	14	.391	7	4-6
Cincinnati	8	15	.348	8	3-7
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	15	8	.652	–	6-4
New York	14	9	.609	1	7-3
Miami	12	11	.522	3	6-4
Philadelphia	11	12	.478	4	7-3
Washington	7	14	.333	7	3-7

Monday's results
Colorado 6, at Cleveland 0
at Cincinnati 7, Texas 6
at Atlanta 11, Miami 0
Detroit 4, at Milwaukee 2
at San Francisco 4, St. Louis 0
at Arizona 5, Kansas City 4

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	14	8	.636	–	7-3
Houston	12	11	.522	2½	6-4
ANGELS	11	12	.478	3½	4-6
Seattle	10	12	.455	4	6-4
Oakland	5	18	.217	9½	2-8
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	13	10	.565	–	4-6
Cleveland	11	12	.478	2	4-6
Detroit	8	13	.381	4	6-4
Chicago	7	16	.304	6	2-8
Kansas City	5	18	.217	8	1-9
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	20	3	.870	–	7-3
Baltimore	15	7	.682	4½	9-1
Toronto	14	9	.609	6	6-4
New York	13	10	.565	7	5-5
Boston	12	12	.500	8½	6-4

Monday's results
Oakland 11, at ANGELS 10, 10 innings
Colorado 6, at Cleveland 0
at Baltimore 5, Boston 4
at Cincinnati 7, Texas 6
at Tampa Bay 8, Houston 3
at Toronto 5, Chicago White Sox 2
Detroit 4, at Milwaukee 2
at Minnesota 6, New York 1
at Arizona 5, Kansas City 4

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
Dodgers/Syndergaard (R)	0-3	4.91	3:30 p.m.
PIT/Oviedo (R)	2-1	2.22	SNLA
WAS/Gray (R)	0-4	3.74	4 p.m.
NY/TBD	—	—	
MIA/Hoeing (R)	—	—	4:15 p.m.
ATL/Morton (R)	2-2	3.22	
SD/Snell (L)	0-3	6.00	4:30 p.m.
CHI/Steele (L)	3-0	1.44	
STL/Woodford (R)	1-2	6.05	6:45 p.m.
SF/Manaea (L)	0-1	6.60	MLB*

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
OAK/Miller (R)	0-0	4.15	6:30 p.m.
Angels/Canning (R)	0-0	3.48	BSW
BOS/Kluber (R)	0-4	8.50	3:30 p.m.
BAL/Bradish (R)	1-0	0.00	
HOU/Garcia (R)	1-2	5.14	3:30 p.m.
TB/Rasmussen (R)	3-1	2.01	
CHI/Clevinger (R)	2-1	3.26	4 p.m.
TOR/Berríos (R)	1-3	6.23	
NY/Cortes (L)	3-0	3.09	4:30 p.m.
MIN/Ryan (R)	4-0	3.24	MLB

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
COL/Feltner (R)	1-2	6.16	3 p.m.
CLE/Battenfield (R)	0-1	1.69	
SEA/Gilbert (R)	1-1	3.57	3:30 p.m.
PHI/Falter (L)	0-3	4.50	
TEX/Pérez (L)	3-1	3.38	3:30 p.m.
CIN/Weaver (R)	0-1	6.00	
DET/Turnbull (R)	1-3	7.85	4:30 p.m.
MIL/Lauer (L)	3-1	4.30	
KC/Singer (R)	1-2	8.14	6:30 p.m.
ARI/Nelson (R)	1-0	4.91	

* joined in progress

ODDS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
DODGERS	-142	at Pittsburgh	+120
at New York	OFF	Washington	OFF
at Atlanta	OFF	Miami	OFF
San Diego	OFF	at Chicago	OFF
at San Francisco	OFF	St. Louis	OFF

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at ANGELS	-184	Oakland	+154
at Baltimore	-136	Boston	+116
at Tampa Bay	-164	Houston	+138
at Toronto	-178	Chicago	+150
New York	-118	at Minnesota	+100

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Cleveland	-180	Colorado	+152
Seattle	-118	at Philadelphia	+100
Texas	-136	at Cincinnati	+116
at Milwaukee	-166	Detroit	+140
at Arizona	-132	Kansas City	+112

LEADERS

Through Sunday's games

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	20	72	32	8	.444
Acuña, Atlanta	22	91	34	20	.374
Nimmo, New York	22	80	28	14	.350
Marsh, Philadelphia	21	66	24	14	.364
Hoerner, Chicago	21	93	33	20	.355
Stott, Philadelphia	22	97	33	7	.340
Díaz, Colorado	21	66	22	7	.333
Bogaerts, San Diego	24	88	29	17	.330
Estrada, San Francisco	20	79	26	17	.329
De La Cruz, Miami	20	70	22	8	.314

Home runs

Muncy, DODGERS	11
Alonso, New York	10
Wisdom, Chicago	9
Outman, DODGERS	7

Runs batted in

Gorman, St. Louis	22
Muncy, DODGERS	21
Olson, Atlanta	20
Outman, DODGERS	19

Angels survive shaky Suarez start only to lose in 10th

OAKLAND 11
ANGELS 10 (10 INN.)

By Sarah Valenzuela

José Suarez did not make it easy for the Angels in the opener of a four-game homestand against the Oakland Athletics, putting his team in a six-run deficit. In the first three innings, he gave up five home runs, a result of tipping pitches, it was explained to him, Suarez said after.

Suarez left after the fifth inning, and the Angels rallied from a 7-1 deficit to take an 8-7 lead into the ninth. With Jaime Barría in relief for the Angels, the A's tied it in the ninth inning and scored three times in the 10th. The Angels scored two runs in the bottom of the 10th, but Mike Trout grounded into a forceout with two runners on to end the game, an 11-10 loss.

It is reasonable to question whether Suarez still fits in the Angels' rotation this season. After Monday's game, manager Phil Nevin was asked where the Angels go from here with Suarez.

"That's a conversation we're gonna have to have to be quite honest," Nevin said. "We were thin [in the bullpen tonight], I had to run [Suarez] as long as I could."

Coming off his last few starts, the matchup against the A's — with the worst record in the majors — should have been Suarez's welcome reprieve. The Angels have seen what a successful Suarez outing can be. Toward the end of last season, he started to look sharper and could pitch through the seventh inning of games.

He has not been able to pick up where he had left off. Monday, he managed to pitch his deepest into a game, five full innings. He also gave up seven runs on eight hits, walked two batters, struck out five, and ended his night with an earned-run average of 10.26.

"I've been working on all my pitches," Suarez said in Spanish after the game. "To tell you the truth, I don't know what's happening."

The Angels are still overall confident in Suarez, and Nevin reiterated that confidence.

"He's too talented. He works too hard, and he's come so far," Nevin said. "I've gone on and on about how we feel about him and the things he's done. It's just right now it's gotta get better."

The Angels would lose more than they would gain if they designated Suarez for assignment — he is out of options and at just 25 years old and with the potential he has shown in the past, it's plausible another team would pick him up. But based on his performances of late, he does not seem, at least for now, a good trade candidate.

The Angels could also move Suarez into the bullpen and shift Tucker Davidson (who has been a middle/bulk reliever this season) into the rotation — Davidson pitched 2⅓ innings in relief after Suarez on Monday, scattering two hits and striking out three.

Asked about what he thinks of Davidson as an alternative, Nevin said: "That discussion's gonna be had, I'm sure, when we get back in. He was really good his last few times."

Nevin also said that they noticed a slight dip in Davidson's velocity Monday. "We've been asking a lot of him his last few times out, the bulk of the innings and when the velocity drops like that, I worry a little bit. I don't want to hurt him, for one. And he's pitched so well for us, that was a big outing tonight."

The Angels, unlike most teams, need a six-person rotation, or at least a swing sixth pitcher who can slot into the rotation to ensure Shohei Ohtani can stick to his regular five days' worth of rest. Based on the schedule, the Angels don't need a sixth starter every turn through the rotation.

The A's got out to an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first after Suarez gave up back-to-back solo home runs to Brent Rooker and Jesús Aguilar.

In the second inning, after walking his the leadoff batter and giving up a double to the his next, Suarez gave up a three-run home run to Kevin Smith.

Suarez allowed Rooker and Aguilar to go back to back once more in the third. After that inning, Nevin stopped Suarez at the top of the dugouts steps to chat with him. Suarez was able to get through his final two innings without giving up further any more runs.

ATHLETICS 11, ANGELS 10

Streak	Lost 1	**This month**	11-11
Home	5-5	**Road**	6-7
Division	4-3	**Interleague**	2-1

Next: Tonight vs. Oakland, Angel Stadium, 6:30
TV/Radio: Bally Sports West/830, 1220

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ruiz cf	6	0	1	0	.272
Diaz 2b	4	0	0	0	.267
Capel lf	2	0	1	0	.306
Rooker rf	4	2	2	3	.333
Agilar 1b	4	2	3	2	.274
Wd 3b-ss	2	0	0	0	.083
Lngliers c	5	1	0	0	.217
D 3b-1b	4	1	1	0	.156
Pérez dh	3	1	2	0	.414
Ptrson dh	2	1	0	0	.186
K.Sth ss	2	1	1	3	.186
Noda 1b	1	2	1	2	.216
Kmp lf-2b	3	0	2	1	.178
Totals	**42**	**11**	**14**	**11**	

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ward lf	5	0	0	0	.216
Trout cf	6	1	1	0	.317
Ohtani dh	4	1	1	0	.265
Rndon 3b	5	1	2	2	.235
Renfroe rf	5	2	1	0	.270
Drury 1b	4	3	3	4	.211
Rngifo 2b	3	1	1	0	.197
Wallach c	4	1	2	2	.300
Neto ss	4	0	2	2	.235
Totals	**40**	**10**	**13**	**10**	

Oakland	232	000	001	3
Angels	011	005	100	2

Walks—Oakland 6: Rooker 2, Díaz 1, Noda 1, Kemp 2. Angels 4: Ward 1, Drury 1, Rengifo 1, Thaiss 1.
Strikeouts—Oakland 11: Ruiz 1, Díaz 3, Rooker 1, 1-Wade 1, Langeliers 2, Díaz 1, Pérez 1, Peterson 1. Angels 8: Ward 2, Trout 2, Ohtani 1, Rendon 2, Renfroe 1.
E—Langeliers (4). **LOB**—Oakland 9, Angels 8. **2B**—Pérez (2), Noda (2), Ohtani (3), Rendon (2), Neto (3), Renfroe (7). **HR**—Rooker 2 (6), off Suarez; Aguilar 2 (4), off Suarez; K.Smith (1), off Suarez; Drury (2), off Waldichuk; Wallach (2), off Waldichuk; Drury (3), off Familia. **RBIs**—Rooker 3 (14), Aguilar 2 (7), K.Smith 3 (5), Noda 2 (4), Kemp (7), Drury 4 (9), Wallach 2 (4), Rendon 2 (11), Neto 2 (3). **SB**—Wade (4). **CS**—Ohtani (2), Kemp (1). **S**—K.Smith.
Runners left in scoring position—Oakland 6 (Kemp, Langeliers 2, Wade 2, Peterson); Angels 4 (Trout 4). RISP_Oakland 4 for 13; Angels 5 for 11.
Runners moved up—Ward. **GIDP**—Renfroe.
DP—Oakland 1 (Diaz, K.Smith, Aguilar).

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Waldichuk	5⅓	6	5	5	1	2	81	7.82
Kaprielian, BS, 0-1	⅔	2	2	2	2	2	25	12.94
Jackson	1	2	1	1	0	2	18	2.53
Oller, W, 1-0	2	1	0	0	0	1	26	9.18
Familia, S, 2-3	1	2	2	1	1	1	27	5.73
Angels	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Suarez	5	8	7	7	2	5	80	10.26
Davidson	2⅓	2	0	0	0	3	37	2.40
Wantz, H, 1	⅔	0	1	1	2	2	23	0.84
Barría, L, 1-1, BS, 0-1	2	4	3	2	2	1	35	4.05

Inherited runners-scored—Kaprielian 1-1, Wantz 1-0, Barría 2-1. IBB_off Barría (Rooker). HBP_Waldichuk (Rengifo), Familia (Neto). **WP**—Kaprielian.
U— Nate Tomlinson, Sean Barber, Jim Wolf, Mike Muchlinski. **T**—3:25. **Tickets sold**—23,814 (45,517).

ROCKIES 6, GUARDIANS 0

Austin Gomber earned his first win of the season, Jurickson Profar drove in three, and Colorado won for the second time in 13 games. Gomber gave up three singles in five scoreless innings.

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Blckmn dh	4	0	0	0	.266
Profar lf	5	1	2	3	.210
Bryant rf	4	0	2	0	.298
Cron 1b	5	0	0	0	.232
Díaz c	4	1	1	0	.329
Mstakas 3b	4	2	3	0	.243
Trejo 2b	4	0	1	1	.238
Doyle cf	3	1	0	0	.000
Tovar ss	4	1	1	2	.194
Totals	**37**	**6**	**10**	**6**	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Kwan lf	4	0	3	0	.267
Rosario ss	4	0	0	0	.247
Ramírez 3b	4	0	0	0	.256
Bell dh	3	0	0	0	.220
Giménez 2b	3	0	0	0	.247
Gonzalez rf	3	0	0	0	.172
Brennan	1	0	0	0	.244
Naylor 1b	3	0	0	0	.176
Zunino c	2	0	0	0	.239
Straw cf	3	0	1	0	.263
Totals	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**	

Colorado	100	410	000	6
Cleveland	000	000	000	0

Walks—Colorado 3: Blackmon 1, Bryant 1, Doyle 1. Cleveland 3: Bell 1, Giménez 1, Zunino 1.
Strikeouts—Colorado 7: Blackmon 1, Profar 2, Bryant 1, Cron 2, Doyle 1. Cleveland 5: Ramírez 1, Bell 1, Giménez 1, Naylor 1, Zunino 1.
E—Kwan (1). **LOB**—Colorado 7, Cleveland 6. **2B**—Moustakas (4), Kwan (3). **HR**—Profar (3), off Quantrill. **RBIs**—Profar 3 (9), Tovar 2 (7), Trejo (4).
Runners left in scoring position—Colorado 2 (Cron, Tovar); Cleveland 1 (Giménez). RISP_Colorado 3 for 7; Cleveland 0 for 4.
Runners moved up—Rosario. **GIDP**—Rosario.
DP—Colorado 1 (Tovar, Trejo, Cron).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gomber, W, 1-4	5	3	0	0	3	3	83	9.28
Bird	2	0	0	0	0	1	15	4.02
Johnson	1	1	0	0	0	1	16	4.15
Lawrence	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.25
Cleveland	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Quantrill, L, 1-2	3⅓	8	5	5	2	2	80	5.40
Sandlin	⅔	0	0	0	0	2	6	4.66
Herrin	1⅓	2	1	1	0	2	31	7.45
Curry	3⅓	0	0	0	1	1	52	2.93

Inherited runners-scored—Sandlin 2-0. **WP**—Herrin.
U— Ramon De Jesus, Doug Eddings, Edwin Moscoso, Lance Barrett. **T**—2:25. **Tickets sold**—9,258 (34,788).

ORIOLES 5, RED SOX 4

Ramón Urías hit a two-run double in the fourth inning, and Baltimore rallied from a four-run deficit for its seventh consecutive victory. The Orioles' bullpen pitched 3⅓ hitless innings.

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Verdugo rf	4	1	1	0	.319
Devers 3b	4	1	1	2	.255
Turner dh	4	0	1	0	.284
Yoshida lf	3	0	3	0	.265
Hrndz 2b-ss	4	0	0	0	.221
Casas 1b	4	1	1	1	.136
Duran cf	4	0	0	0	.333
Wong c	1	1	0	0	.188
Chang ss	3	0	0	0	.136
Totals	**31**	**4**	**7**	**4**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hays lf	4	0	2	1	.305
Rtchmn dh	4	0	1	0	.289
Mntcstle 1b	4	1	2	0	.226
Sntander rf	4	1	1	0	.213
Urías 3b	3	1	2	2	.246
McCann c	4	0	1	1	.160
Mullins cf	3	1	2	0	.260
Mateo ss	3	1	1	0	.358
Frazier 2b	3	0	1	1	.219
Totals	**32**	**5**	**13**	**5**	

Boston	013	000	000	4
Baltimore	001	310	00x	5

Walks—Boston 3: Yoshida 1, Wong 2. Baltimore 1: Urías 1.
Strikeouts—Boston 10: Devers 2, Turner 1, Hernández 1, Casas 2, Duran 2, Wong 1, Chang 1.
LOB—Boston 3, Baltimore 4. **2B**—Mullins (4), Santander (7), Urías (5), Mateo (5). **HR**—Casas (3), off Kremer; Devers (9), off Kremer. **RBIs**—Casas (8), Verdugo (12), Devers 2 (23), Frazier (9), Urías 2 (9), McCann (3), Hays (9). **CS**—Urías (1), Wong (1).
Runners left in scoring position—Boston 2 (Casas, Duran); Baltimore 1 (Rutschman). RISP_Boston 1 for 6; Baltimore 4 for 8.
Runners moved up—Chang, Frazier. **GIDP**—Hernández, Hays, Mountcastle, Santander, Mullins.
DP—Boston 4 (Chang, Hernández, Casas; Chang, Casas; Chang, Hernández, Casas; Arroyo, Casas); Baltimore 1 (Mateo, Frazier, Mountcastle).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sale, L, 1-2	5	9	5	5	1	0	83	8.22
Brasier	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	6.75
Bernardino	2	4	0	0	0	0	34	0.00
Baltimore	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Kremer, W, 2-0	5⅔	7	4	4	1	5	87	6.20
Akin, H, 2	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	1	6.35
Baker, H, 5	1	0	0	0	1	2	19	2.25
Coulombe, H, 4	1	0	0	0	1	1	14	1.00
Cano, S, 1-1	1	0	0	0	0	2	12	0.00

Inherited runners-scored—Akin 1-0, Cano 1-0.
U— Junior Valentine, Adrian Johnson, Manny Gonzalez, Quinn Wolcott. **T**—2:29. **Tickets sold**—11,811 (45,971).

RAYS 8, ASTROS 3

Taj Bradley won his third straight start, and Tampa Bay set a modern-era MLB record with its 14th consecutive home win to begin a season. It had shared the mark with the 2009 Dodgers.

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Dubón 2b	4	1	1	0	.325
Peña ss	4	1	1	1	.217
Tucker rf	2	0	0	1	.295
Bregman 3b	4	1	2	1	.247
J.Abreu 1b	4	0	1	0	.250
Julks lf	4	0	0	0	.305
Diaz dh	4	0	0	0	.192
Meyers cf	2	0	1	0	.286
Mldonado c	3	0	0	0	.151
Totals	**31**	**3**	**6**	**3**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Díaz 1b	5	1	2	0	.313
Franco ss	5	2	4	1	.318
Arozarena lf	3	2	2	2	.353
B.Lowe 2b	5	0	0	0	.235
Ramírez dh	3	1	1	1	.371
Paredes 3b	3	1	2	1	.229
J.Lowe rf	5	0	1	1	.333
Bthncourt c	5	1	2	2	.286
Margot cf	3	0	0	0	.180
Totals	**37**	**8**	**14**	**8**	

Houston	201	000	000	3
Tampa Bay	204	001	10x	8

Walks—Houston 1: Tucker 1. Tampa Bay 5: Ramírez 2, Paredes 2, Margot 1.
Strikeouts—Houston 9: Dubón 2, Peña 1, Tucker 2, J.Abreu 1, Julks 1, Diaz 2. Tampa Bay 11: Arozarena 1, B.Lowe 5, Ramírez 1, J.Lowe 2, Bethancourt 1, Margot 1.
LOB—Houston 4, Tampa Bay 12. **2B**—Bregman (4), Meyers (3), Ramírez (4), Franco 2 (11), Arozarena (4). **3B**—Dubón (1), Arozarena (1). **HR**—Bregman (3), off Bradley; Peña (4), off Bradley. **RBIs**—Tucker (18), Bregman (11), Peña (13), Arozarena 2 (24), Ramírez (11), J.Lowe (16), Bethancourt 2 (9), Paredes (12), Franco (14). **SB**—Franco (5). **SF**—Tucker, Arozarena.
Runners left in scoring position—Houston 2 (Dubón, Julks); Tampa Bay 6 (Ramírez, Margot, Díaz, B.Lowe, Paredes, J.Lowe). RISP_Houston 0 for 5; Tampa Bay 6 for 17. **GIDP**—Bregman.
DP—Tampa Bay 1 (Paredes, B.Lowe, Díaz).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Urquidy, L, 1-2	2⅔	7	6	6	2	3	73	5.64
Martinez	2⅓	1	0	0	2	4	48	5.23
Stanek	1	2	1	1	1	1	19	4.00
Blanco	2	4	1	1	0	3	43	5.40
Tampa Bay	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Bradley, W, 3-0	5	4	3	3	0	6	82	3.52
Kelly, H, 1	2	2	0	0	0	3	39	3.95
Cleavinger	1	0	0	0	1	0	10	0.93
Beeks	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	5.06

Inherited runners-scored—Martinez 2-0. HBP_Bradley (Meyers), Martinez (Arozarena). PB_Maldonado (3).
U— Jerry Layne, Brock Ballou, Vic Carapazza, Nick Mahrley. **T**—2:46. **Tickets sold**—10,611 (25,025).

REDS 7, RANGERS 6

TJ Friedl drove in the game-winning run with a ninth-inning single, and Cincinnati stopped a six-game losing streak with a come-from-behind win. Alexis Díaz pitched a perfect ninth inning.

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Semien 2b	5	0	1	1	.292
Grssman rf	4	0	1	1	.211
Lowe 1b	4	0	0	0	.244
García dh	4	1	1	0	.250
Jung 3b	4	2	2	3	.282
Duran ss	4	1	3	0	.310
Taveras cf	3	1	1	1	.270
León c	3	0	0	0	.200
Jankowski lf	1	0	0	0	.325
Thmpson lf	2	1	1	0	.185
Heim c	1	0	0	0	.309
Totals	**35**	**6**	**10**	**6**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
India 2b	3	3	1	0	.293
Friedl lf-cf	4	1	2	1	.313
Steer 3b	4	2	2	2	.294
Stphenson c	3	0	0	1	.260
Fraley rf	4	0	1	0	.200
Myers 1b	3	0	1	0	.222
Ramos dh	3	0	1	1	.333
Senzel cf	3	0	0	1	.139
Barrero ss	4	0	0	0	.228
Totals	**31**	**7**	**8**	**6**	

Texas	032	100	000	6
Cincinnati	103	000	021	7

Walks—Texas 2: Taveras 1, Thompson 1. Cincinnati 6: India 2, Stephenson 1, Myers 1, Ramos 1, Senzel 1.
Strikeouts—Texas 11: Semien 2, Grossman 1, Lowe 2, García 2, Duran 1, León 2, Jankowski 1. Cincinnati 9: Friedl 1, Steer 1, Fraley 1, Myers 2, Senzel 2, Barrero 2.
E—Jung (2). **LOB**—Texas 4, Cincinnati 7. **2B**—Duran (3), Taveras (4), India (8). **3B**—Steer (1). **HR**—Jung 2 (5), off Lodolo. **RBIs**—Jung 3 (14), Taveras (5), Semien (21), Grossman (11), Steer 2 (9), Stephenson (10), Ramos (1), Senzel (3), Friedl (10). **SB**—Thompson (1), Duran (1), Friedl (2).
Runners left in scoring position—Texas 2 (Taveras, Grossman); Cincinnati 4 (Myers, Barrero 2, Stephenson). RISP_Texas 4 for 9; Cincinnati 2 for 11.
Runners moved up—Stephenson, Steer. **GIDP**—León, Lowe, Senzel, Ramos.
DP—Texas 2 (Jung, Semien, Lowe; Duran, Lowe); Cincinnati 2 (Barrero, India, Myers; Barrero, Myers).

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi	6	6	4	3	1	7	89	5.20
Dunning, H, 3	1⅔	1	2	2	2	1	26	1.06
Leclerc, L, 0-1, BS, 1-3	⅓	0	1	0	3	1	19	0.00
W.Smith	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	2.16
Cincinnati	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Lodolo	4	9	6	6	2	6	86	6.31
Farmer	2	1	0	0	0	1	32	3.97
Gibaut	1	0	0	0	0	2	15	3.12
Sims	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	0.00
Díaz, W, 1-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.86

W.Smith pitched to 1 batters in the 9th
Inherited runners-scored—Leclerc 3-2, W.Smith 1-1. **HBP**—Eovaldi (Friedl). **WP**—Eovaldi, Lodolo. **PB**—Heim (1).
U— Will Little, Ryan Additon, Dan Merzel, Lance Barksdale. **T**—2:36. **Tickets sold**—8,810 (43,891).

BLUE JAYS 5, WHITE SOX 2

Chris Bassitt pitched 6⅓ innings before leaving because of a sore lower back and Cavan Biggio hit a three-run home run for Toronto. Chicago has lost five straight, 10 of 12 and 13 of 17.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Robert Jr. cf	3	1	0	0	.226
Benintendi lf	3	1	2	0	.296
Vaughn 1b	4	0	1	2	.244
Jiménez dh	3	0	0	0	.196
Grandal c	3	0	0	0	.269
Burger 3b	2	0	0	0	.220
Sheets	1	0	0	0	.294
Colás rf	4	0	0	0	.219
Andrus ss	4	0	0	0	.198
Sosa 2b-3b	4	0	0	0	.132
Totals	**31**	**2**	**3**	**2**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Bichette ss	4	0	1	0	.327
Grrero Jr. dh	5	1	1	0	.333
Varsho lf	4	0	0	0	.213
Chapman 3b	4	0	1	1	.361
Kirk c	1	1	0	0	.240
Belt 1b	4	1	2	0	.200
Merrifield 2b	2	1	1	1	.317
Biggio rf	3	1	1	3	.128
Springer rf	1	0	0	0	.196
Kiermaier cf	2	0	1	0	.302
Totals	**30**	**5**	**8**	**5**	

Chicago	002	000	000	2
Toronto	000	400	10x	5

Walks—Chicago 4: Robert Jr. 1, Benintendi 1, Jiménez 1, Grandal 1. Toronto 8: Bichette 1, Kirk 3, Merrifield 2, Kiermaier 2.
Strikeouts—Chicago 6: Robert Jr. 3, Vaughn 2, Sheets 1. Toronto 6: Guerrero Jr. 1, Varsho 1, Chapman 1, Biggio 2, Kiermaier 1.
E—Chapman (2). **LOB**—Chicago 7, Toronto 9. **2B**—Vaughn (9), Merrifield (6), Chapman (11). **HR**—Biggio (2), off Lynn. **RBIs**—Vaughn 2 (16), Merrifield (8), Biggio

Herbert, Allen, Williams, James are among Telesco's greatest hits

[**Chargers,** from B10]
in charge, Telesco had drafted seven players who have made 17 combined Pro Bowls. Three years ago, he made his most prized pick: quarterback Justin Herbert.

A look at Telesco's year-by-year history:

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

JUSTIN HERBERT was taken with the sixth overall pick in the 2020 NFL draft.

2013 picks: 1 OT D.J. Fluker, 2 LB Manti Te'o, 3 WR Keenan Allen, 5 DB Steve Williams, 6 LB Tourek Williams, 7 QB Brad Sorensen.

Analysis: Telesco's first draft with the Chargers continues to yield production as Allen remains a primary offensive target. By the end of the 2023 season, Allen should be the franchise's all-time leader in catches and yards among wide receivers. Though he never developed into a top offensive lineman, Fluker — taken 11th overall — did start 59 games for the Chargers over four seasons. Te'o also spent four seasons with the team, making 34 starts.

2014: 1 CB Jason Verrett, 2 LB Jeremiah Attaochu, 3 G Chris Watt, 5 DT Ryan Carrethers, 6 RB Marion Grice, 7 WR Tevin Reese.

Analysis: This is Telesco's least-productive draft, a fact emphasized by Verrett's career-long misfortune with injuries. A Pro Bowl choice in his second season, Verrett has been unable to fulfill his first-round potential because his body continually has broken down. Attaochu is still active and even returned to the Chargers last season, appearing in two games.

2015: 1 RB Melvin Gordon III, 2 LB Denzel Perryman, 3 CB Craig Mager, 4 LB Kyle Emanuel, 6 DT Darius Philon.

Analysis: Gordon rushed for 2,987 yards and scored 28 touchdowns over a three-year stretch starting in 2016. His time with the team ended somewhat awkwardly after a poorly devised training-camp holdout in 2019. Perryman spent six years with the Chargers and has had a solid NFL career as he prepares for his first year with Houston. As the 192nd player selected, Philon gave the Chargers back-to-back decent seasons in 2017 and 2018.

2016: 1 Edge Joey Bosa, 2 TE Hunter Henry, 3 C Max Tuerk, 4 LB Joshua Perry, 5 LB Jatavis Brown, 6 P Drew Kaser, FB Derek Watt, G Donavon Clark.

Analysis: With his highest pick as a general manager — No. 3 overall — Telesco didn't miss in selecting Bosa, who remains one of the league's top edge rushers. Henry was a solid contributor for four seasons, and Brown started 10 games for the Chargers' 2018 playoff team. Watt, with 110, has appeared in more NFL games than every Telesco draft pick other than Allen (126).

2017: 1 WR Mike Williams, 2 G Forrest Lamp, 3 OL Dan Feeney, 4 S Rayshawn Jenkins, 5 DB Desmond King, 6 OT Sam Tevi, 7 Edge Isaac Rochell.

Analysis: Six of Telesco's seven picks all became regular contributors for the team, and even the seventh — Lamp — started all 16 games during 2020. Entering his seventh season, Williams appears poised to become the Chargers' No. 1 wideout, a spot held for years by Allen. The 2023 team's chances hinge in part on Williams' ability to continue to be a deep-ball threat.

2018: 1 S Derwin James Jr., 2 Edge Uchenna Nwosu, 3 DT Justin Jones, 4 LB Kazir White, 5 C Scott Quessenberry, 6 WR Dylan Cantrell, 7 RB Justin Jackson.

Analysis: With some injury issues coming out of Florida State, James slid to No. 17, where Telesco grabbed him. The concern about James' health surfaced when he missed most of 2019 and all of 2020. But in the three seasons he has played, James has been one of the NFL's best safeties. Nwosu, Jones and White all became starters, and Jackson provided the Chargers with production when he was healthy.

2019: 1 DT Jerry Tillery, 2 S Nasir Adderley, 3 OT Trey Pipkins III, 4 LB Drue Tranquill, 5 QB Easton Stick, 6 LB Emeke Egbule, 7 DL Cortez Broughton.

Analysis: After the Chargers made the playoffs the previous season, their top pick here fell to No. 28, where Telesco took Tillery, who proved himself to be a first-rounder only technically. Despite failing to emerge as a star, Tillery was generally available during his three-plus seasons with the team. In fact, only four players drafted ahead of him have appeared in more NFL games. Adderley and Tranquill became starters, and Pipkins represents one of Telesco's top project picks as he earned a second contract this offseason.

2020: 1 QB Justin Herbert, LB Kenneth Murray Jr., 4 RB Joshua Kelley, 5 WR Joe Reed, 6 S Alohi Gilman, 7 WR K.J. Hill.

Analysis: When Miami took Tua Tagovailoa at No. 5, Telesco was left to make the pick that likely will forever headline his career as a general manager. Herbert has produced one of the finest starts for a quarterback in NFL history and could easily be the franchise's starter for another 15 years or so. Murray has played well but almost certainly won't have his fifth-year option picked up this offseason. Kelley and Gilman remain regular contributors, though Reed and Hill never developed into options on offense.

2021: 1 OT Rashawn Slater, 2 CB Asante Samuel Jr., 3 WR Joshua Palmer, TE Tre' McKitty, 4 Edge Chris Rumph II, 5 OL Brenden Jaimes, 6 LB Nick Niemann, RB Larry Rountree III, 7 S Mark Webb.

Analysis: Topped by Slater, each of Telesco's first three selections is a significant piece entering the 2023 season. There were some concerns around the NFL about Slater's ability to play tackle. Those lasted about three days into his first training camp when it became clear Telesco had chosen wisely. Samuel has had some issues with health and his size is something opponents have targeted in the running game, but he is a more than willing tackler.

2022: 1 G Zion Johnson, 3 S JT Woods, 4 RB Isaiah Spiller, 5 DT Otito Ogbonnia, 6 OL Jamaree Salyer, CB Ja'Sir Taylor, 7 DB Deane Leonard, FB Zander Horvath.

Analysis: Telesco's work netted 40% of the Chargers' starting offensive line entering 2023, with Johnson and Salyer both emerging as front-line options as rookies. Salyer has the potential to be a late-round find for this team. The Chargers remain high on Woods and Spiller, and Ogbonnia was playing his best before he suffered a season-ending knee injury in mid-November.

Prior still influenced by career with Cubs

[**Dodgers,** from B10]
lief, struggling to digest what would soon become the most defining moment of his roller-coaster playing career.

"Sometimes those ripples can kind of snowball," Prior said. "That one, obviously, is an extreme."

Two decades later, Prior is in his fourth season as the Dodgers' pitching coach, leading a staff that has achieved an almost unparalleled stretch of success on the mound.

Over the last three seasons, the Dodgers led the majors in team earned-run average, WHIP (walks and hits per inning pitched) and WAR (wins above replacement). And despite a slow start from Prior's group this year — the team entered Monday ranked 18th with a 4.37 ERA over its first 23 games — the 42-year-old maintains a sterling reputation, combining advanced pitching acumen with a commanding, clear-minded presence.

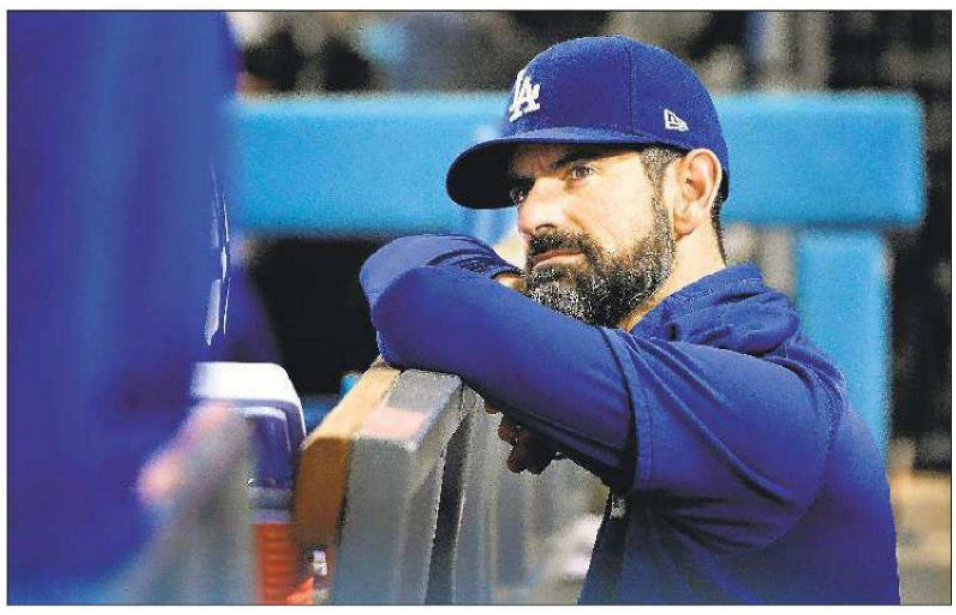
"I think Mark is just tough, and I really respect that," Dodgers ace and future Hall of Famer Clayton Kershaw said of Prior late last year. "Sometimes, it's not easy to deliver a message to somebody that they don't want to hear. But [he'll tell us]: 'Quit being soft. Or go get this guy. Or you're not throwing strikes. Or you're not executing.' Like, 'I get you're mad, but fix it.' And I respect that so much."

Indeed, for a Dodgers team with a vast "run prevention department" — from assistant pitching coach and mechanics guru Connor McGuiness to an analytics savant in bench coach Danny Lehmann to a whole staff of other minor league and front-office voices — it is Prior's background as a talented yet adversity-stricken player that has made him an effective conduit for the operation.

"I do feel like there's a wide band of players that I could probably relate to," he said. "The information now is so readily available. But so much of the nuances in the game, the little things — for guys who played for a long time, it's the experiences [you use] to try to hopefully educate guys to get in the moment."

"Getting in the moment" is something Prior couldn't do on that fateful night at Wrigley Field in October 2003.

Just two years removed from being drafted second overall out of USC, the then 23-year-old was a Cy Young Award candidate and first-time All-Star on the verge of sending the Cubs to a long-awaited World Series.



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

MARK PRIOR IS IN his fourth season as the Dodgers' pitching coach, leading a staff that has achieved an almost unparalleled stretch of success on the mound.

Dodgers vs. Pittsburgh
AT PNC PARK
Today, 3:30 p.m.
TV: SNLA

With the Cubs up 3-0 on the Florida Marlins in a potential clinching sixth game, Prior thought he might have induced a key second out in the eighth inning when Luis Castillo lifted a fly ball down the left-field line.

"The out wasn't a given," Prior noted.

But he never could have imagined what ultimately happened next.

Bartman — the headphone-wearing, turtleneck Cubs fan soon villainized in Chicago for his oblivious front-row interference — prevented Alou from completing a leaping catch. And from there, everything spiraled.

Prior walked Castillo in a full count on the next pitch. Iván Rodríguez lined a two-strike RBI single after that. Shortstop Alex Gonzalez committed a costly error on a potential double-play ball. And after Derrek Lee ambushed Prior for a first-pitch double that tied the score, the lanky right-hander watched the rest of the inning from the dugout — an eight-run rally that flipped the game and the series.

"You go back and you watch the video," Prior said last week as he and the Dodgers made their annual trip back to Wrigley Field, "it's like, eight pitches later, nine pitches later, it's a tied ballgame, then they're up by one, and I'm out of the game and things are just snowballing."

"I think if anything, that just reinforced the value of each and every out, and how precious it is," he added. "It's stuff we talk about with our pitchers. What that can do, how it can impact the game."

Prior recounts the sequence with regret rather than rage; having always blamed himself, and never Bartman, for a night after which his playing career was never the same.

After his breakout 2003 season, in which Prior navigated a heavy 211-inning workload with an 18-6 record and 2.43 ERA, injuries slowly derailed his final three seasons in the majors, as he went 18-17 with a 4.27 ERA the rest of the way.

He had elbow soreness and a hurt Achilles tendon in 2004, then more elbow troubles that limited him in 2005. In 2006, his shoulder began to ache. And the next year, he underwent reconstructive surgery to fix his labrum, capsule and rotator cuff — all but ending his time with the Cubs, and as a major leaguer, before his 27th birthday.

Despite that, Prior treasures many parts of his playing days. He reflects fondly of his experiences pitching at Wrigley Field, which he considered a "privilege to play in."

He speaks highly of the older teammates he had in Chicago — from Greg Maddux and Kerry Wood to Sammy Sosa, Aramis Ramírez and Alou — whom he leaned on heavily after being called up after just nine minor league games.

"I came up with a bunch of really good veterans that took pride in teaching younger players how to be professional, how to act, how to compete, how to manage games," he said. "I didn't have the minor league experiences of even being through a full season, what it's like on your body, mentally and emotionally."

Those lessons were so impactful that they influenced Prior's perspective during the latter half of his career, when he embraced his own veteran role from 2010 to 2013 as a reliever in the minor leagues and, briefly, independent ball.

"I really enjoyed being down in the bullpen and being part of watching young guys come up and develop," Prior said. "Being the older guy, I felt like it was kind of my obligation, the way I was treated as a younger person by some of my veterans, to pass on whatever information I could to help those guys."

That's when the principles of Prior's coaching philosophy began to take shape, reapplying all he learned as a young major league phenom through an older, wiser perspective.

During Prior's final professional season in 2013, when he made one last unsuccessful comeback attempt with the Cincinnati Reds, their pitching coordinator, Mark Riggins, reminded him how a more blunt, honest approach can work as well. "It was [the end of spring and time to find out] whether or not I was gonna break camp with anybody," Prior recalled. "He was flat out like: 'We don't know. We'll let you know tomorrow.' And I was like, well, I appreciated that versus sitting around for 12 hours."

When more shoulder injuries ended his career that summer, Prior finally transitioned into an instructional role with the San Diego Padres, working in their front office for a couple of seasons before being named their minor league pitching coordinator in 2015.

In 2018, the Dodgers hired Prior to be their bullpen coach. When head pitching coach Rick Honeycutt retired two years later, Prior was promoted as his successor — bringing with him a wide array of highs and lows as a player that, even after all the injuries and setbacks and infamous postseason mistakes, he wouldn't trade.

"I think our job as coaches is to make this game as simple as possible," he said. "And whether it's being on the top-ish, or if it's being hurt or being out of baseball, I do have a lot of experiences that I think can help me and at least push other people's careers, hopefully, in a better direction."

PRO CALENDAR

	TUE 25	WED 26	THU 27	FRI 28	SAT 29
DODGERS	at Pittsburgh 3:30 SNLA	at Pittsburgh 3:30 SNLA	at Pittsburgh 9:30 a.m. SNLA	ST. LOUIS 7 Apple TV+	ST. LOUIS 6 SNLA, FS1
ANGELS	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW	OAKLAND 1 BSW	at Milwaukee 5 BSW	at Milwaukee 4 BSW
LAKERS		at Memphis* 4:30 SpecSN, TNT		MEMPHIS* (if necessary) TBD	
CLIPPERS	at Phoenix* 7 BSSC, TNT		PHOENIX* (if necessary) TBD		at Phoenix* (if necessary) TBD
KINGS	at Edmonton* 6:30 Ch. 13, ESPN				EDMONTON* TBD
GALAXY					at Orlando 4:30 Apple TV
LAFC		at Phila.** 6 FS1			
ANGEL CITY					at Portland 7:30 Paramount+

Shade denotes home game. *Playoffs **CONCACAF Champions League

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
3:30 p.m.	Dodgers at Pittsburgh	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
4:30 p.m.	New York Yankees at Minnesota	**TV:** MLB
6:30 p.m.	Oakland at Angels	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830, 1220
7:30 p.m.	St. Louis at San Francisco (joined in progress)	**TV:** MLB
BASKETBALL: NBA PLAYOFFS, FIRST ROUND		
4:30 p.m.	Atlanta at Boston, Game 5	**TV:** TNT
6 p.m.	Minnesota at Denver, Game 5	**TV:** NBA
7 p.m.	Clippers at Phoenix, Game 5	**TV:** BSSC, TNT **R:** 1150, 1330
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
3 p.m.	East Carolina at North Carolina State	**TV:** ESPNU
3 p.m.	Coastal Carolina at Wake Forest	**TV:** ACC
4 p.m.	Louisville at Kentucky	**TV:** SEC
5 p.m.	Gonzaga at Oregon	**TV:** Pac-12
HOCKEY		
7 a.m.	IIHF U-18 World Championship, Switzerland vs. United States	**TV:** NHL
9:30 a.m.	IIHF U-18 World Championship, Czech Republic vs. Canada	**TV:** NHL
4 p.m.	NHL playoffs, New York Islanders at Carolina, Game 5	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
5 p.m.	NHL playoffs, Minnesota at Dallas, Game 5	**TV:** TBS
6:30 p.m.	NHL playoffs, Kings at Edmonton, Game 5	**TV:** 13, ESPN, ESPND **R:** iHeart
SOCCER		
10:30 a.m.	Spain, Real Madrid at Girona	**TV:** ESPND
Noon	England, Leicester City at Leeds United	**TV:** USA
1 p.m.	Spain, Real Sociedad at Betis	**TV:** ESPND
7 p.m.	CONCACAF Champions League, León at Tigres UANL	**TV:** FS1, KFTR, UniMás
TENNIS		
9 a.m.	WTA Madrid Open, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis

E-NEWSPAPER BONUS:

Subscribers get free access to the daily digital replica of The Times' print edition that includes one bonus sports page. Today, the Prep Rally breaks down local products in the NFL draft. latimes.com/enewspaper.

SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

NBA PLAYOFFS :: FIRST ROUND

LAKERS 117, MEMPHIS 111 (OT)

LAKERS LEAD SERIES 3-1 | **GAME 5:** WEDNESDAY AT MEMPHIS, 4:30 P.M. PDT, TNT, SPECSN

Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

LeBRON JAMES celebrates after scoring and getting fouled in overtime. The Lakers pushed Memphis to the brink of elimination.

Lakers rev up at right time

James, Davis take over late as Lakers are one win from finishing Grizzlies

BY DAN WOIKE

Old engines take longer to warm up.

LeBron James stood in and let Ja Morant crash into him. He skied for rebounds. He scanned the defense. But the bucket — the one the Lakers had to have, the hoop that could help write his legacy as a Laker in a full building — escaped him for 48 minutes.

Well, at least it did for 47 minutes 59.2 seconds.

No matter the defensive stops, hustle plays, charges or rebounds, everything James did wasn't enough to get the Lakers a win.

But there was still time. And just like this Lakers season, which seemed dead in December, the Lakers kept going.

With 0.8 seconds left in regulation, James hit a high-arching bank shot to force overtime, and with extra minutes to make the previous four quarters right, James and Anthony Davis took over, scoring the Lakers' first nine points in a 117-111 overtime victory over the Grizzlies.

"Us just figuring out a way," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said.

James punctuated things with a driving score to seal it in overtime, howling and flexing at the crowd with the win about to be in his grasp.

LAKERS FORWARD Anthony Davis grabs a rebound over Grizzlies forward Xavier Tillman Sr. in the second quarter.

The Lakers now travel to Memphis, where they will have a chance to end the series with a victory in Game 5 on Wednesday.

James finished with 22 points and 20 rebounds, a career high for rebounds in any game, regular season or playoffs. It's the first postseason 20/20 game by a Laker since Shaquille O'Neal did it in the 2004 NBA Finals.

Monday, a moment when the Lakers' first-round series could swing in one direction or the other, had to be played mostly in staccato. There were too many fouls, too many missed shots and too many mistakes to provide the game with meaningful flow.

That meant the Lakers and Grizzlies had to win moments to grab the minimal amounts of momentum that were available down the stretch.

D'Angelo Russell provided one of those stretches, hitting three three-pointers in short order in the fourth to energize the nervous crowd. Austin Reaves had it at moments, as did Jarred Vanderbilt, Dennis Schroder and Troy Brown

[See **Lakers,** B7]

BIG WING IS LITTLE BROTHER TO LUE

Suns' 6-5, 250-pound forward Wainright is mentored by Clippers coach, dating back to their Missouri roots.

BY ANDREW GREIF

Six years before their first-round meeting in this month's Clippers-Suns playoff series, Tyronn Lue was giving Ish Wainright an earful.

"Ty," Wainright said, "cussed me out."

It was summer 2017. Wainright, then a basketball player at Baylor, had called Lue, then the coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers, to ask whether the Cavaliers' Summer League roster had an opening for a 6-foot-5, 250-pound wing such as himself. Lue worked to make it happen.

Within days, Wainright called Lue back.

"And he said, 'I'm gonna go play football,' " Lue recalled.

Cue the curse-out.

"He was mad," Wainright said. "He said, 'Bro, what the!' "

With a baby daughter, Wainright knew his NBA prospects were slim, but he had been invited to play tight end at Baylor, and grabbing the attention of the NFL seemed like a gamble worth trying. Within a year, he would make a rookie minicamp with the Buffalo Bills, playing briefly alongside future All-Pro quarterback Josh Allen.

Yet there was a reason why he had called Lue, 17 years his senior, in the first place. "He's like a big brother," Wainright, now 28, told The Times.

Echoed Lue: "He's a little brother."

The first-round postseason matchup between Phoenix and the Clippers, led by the Suns 3-1 entering Tuesday night's potential elimination contest, is a sev-

[See **Clippers,** B7]

NBA PLAYOFFS
FIRST ROUND

Clippers vs. Phoenix

Game 5: 7 tonight at Phoenix
TV: BSSC, TNT

Phoenix leads series 3-1

Hits, misses, incompletes from 10 drafts by Telesco

BY JEFF MILLER

He doesn't mock mock drafts. Tom Telesco, instead, participates in them.

The Chargers' general manager estimated that he recently has run "25 to 30" versions through various online simulators in advance of the real thing Thursday night.

"It's all mental exercises," Telesco said Monday. "Obviously [during the actual draft], you're making decisions with a clock over your head. You really can't wait until you're on the clock and then start talking to people and decide what you want to do."

The Chargers have the 21st pick in what will be Telesco's 11th NFL draft as general manager. They have one selection in each of the next six rounds as well.

During his decade-plus

[See **Chargers,** B9]

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS :: FIRST ROUND

KINGS AT EDMONTON

SERIES TIED 2-2 | **GAME 5:** TONIGHT AT EDMONTON, 6:30 PDT, CH. 13, ESPN

Bearing down key for Kings to rebound

BY KEVIN BAXTER

For Kings coach Todd McLellan, there are lessons to be learned from the team's loss Sunday night in Game 4 of its first-round Stanley Cup playoff series with the Edmonton Oilers.

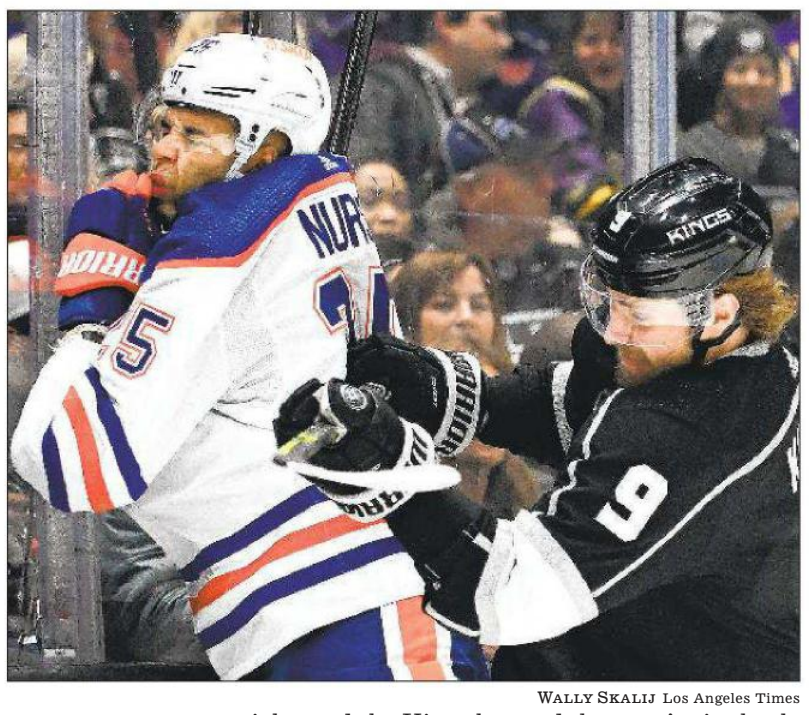
The most obvious one, of course, is don't let a three-goal first-period lead get away. But that's not the only one.

"There's some things that we have to fix, and there's some things that we have fixed," McLellan said Monday before the Kings left for Edmonton, where the best-of-seven series resumes Tuesday night with the teams even at two wins apiece. "You have to keep reinforcing the positives: 'Look what happens when we do certain things. It's working for us.'

"There's other areas that we have to repair. And we keep trying to do that."

Everything was certainly working in the first period of Game 4 when the Kings, buoyed by the return of winger

[See **Kings,** B6]



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

ADRIAN KEMPE, right, and the Kings learned they can't give back games such as Game 4, but they also take positives into Game 5.

Bartman play helped shape Prior's tactics with Dodgers

BY JACK HARRIS

CHICAGO — The most famous camera shot is of Moisés Alou.

The Chicago Cubs outfielder runs to foul ground and leaps against a wall. He stretches his arm out, glove raised above his head. Then he recoils in disgust, a flyout that could have helped the Cubs reach the World Series infamously bouncing off the arms of Steve Bartman instead.

It's the next camera angle of Fox's 2003 National League Championship Series broadcast, however, that tells another important piece of that story — one far more relevant to the Dodgers' recent run of pitching excellence.

Up flashed a shot of Mark Prior — staring toward the outfield with a look of disbe-

[See **Dodgers,** B9]

ROBERT S. HELFMAN

DAIYAN HENLEY, middle, shown in 2009, went from ball boy to starting quarterback at Crenshaw and wound up playing linebacker for Washington State. "He had the mentality," his high school coach said. Now he's hoping to be selected in the NFL draft.

PREP RALLY

Crenshaw's Henley awaiting his NFL draft phone call

By Eric Sondheimer

The NFL draft begins Thursday, and it's going to be an exciting time for several Southern California products.

Photographer Robert S. Helfman captured photos of Daiyan Henley when he was a ball boy for Crenshaw High. He would go on to be the Cougars' starting quarterback, sign with Nevada and end up playing linebacker for Washington State. Now he's ready to be selected in this week's NFL draft.

"I'm very proud of him," Crenshaw coach Robert Garrett said.

Henley was a ball boy from the time he was 8 years old. His athleticism made him a valuable high school player, so Garrett made him the quarterback.

"He had the mentality," Garrett said. "He just wanted to play. In football, it doesn't matter where they move you. It's the opportunity to play. He has a great attitude."

The first round Thursday figures to see former local quarterbacks Bryce Young (Santa Ana Mater Dei) and CJ Stroud (Rancho Cucamonga) go off the board fast.

Where Henley goes remains to be seen. Henley's quickness and instincts should be intriguing for teams looking for versatile defensive players.

"Everybody likes him," Garrett said in his 100% endorsement of Henley's character and work ethic.

Baseball

The Southern Section high school baseball playoffs begin next week. It's a huge final week of the regular season for teams wanting to make the playoffs or win a league championship.

Cerritos Gahr and La Mirada have been the top two teams in the new Gateway League all season, and now they get to decide the league title with a three-game series beginning Tuesday at Gahr, followed by Wednesday at John Glenn and Friday at Gahr.

San Juan Capistrano JSerra and Orange Lutheran were supposed to be the top two teams in the Trinity League. Instead, their three-game series this week could decide an automatic playoff berth, with the loser sweating it out to see whether there are any at-large spots in Division 1. They are in a three-way tie for second with Mater Dei, which is seeking its first playoff spot since 2017.

Encino Crespi and Studio City Harvard-Westlake play a three-game "parking lot" series to decide second place in the Mission League. The series started Monday at O'Malley Field and continues Tuesday at Crespi's Hartunian Field and Thursday at O'Malley. The fields are a short walk from one another in the Encino sports complex and share the same parking lot.

Cypress and Garden Grove Pacifica, the top two teams in the Empire League, have a two-game series starting Tuesday at Pacifica and ending Thursday at Cypress.

Arcadia and Crescenta Valley, both unbeaten in the Pacific League, have their annual two-game night series, with Arcadia hosting Tuesday and Crescenta Valley hosting Friday at Stengel Field. Both games are at 7 p.m.

Etiwanda and La Verne Damien will decide the Baseline League title with a three-game series that begins Monday at Damien, followed by Wednesday at Etiwanda and Friday at Damien.

The Marmonte League title will be on the line with Calabasas and Westlake Village Oaks Christian meeting in a three-game series that begins Monday at Oaks Christian.

One big development is the rise of Duncan Marsten for Harvard-Westlake. He missed last season after elbow surgery. He returned this season and came through with his best performance last week, striking out 12 in five innings with his fastball reaching 94 mph. It has enabled the Wolverines to move Bryce Rainer to the closer role. The Wolverines have won 10 consecutive games.

Cider Cannon of Pasadena Maranatha hit five home runs last week. Conor Sunderland of Fullerton went five for five in a game and hit his sixth home run. He has 34 hits. Senior Nico Terenzi of Crescenta Valley is 9-1 this season after he dropped down to a three-quarters delivery style.

Honoring Times

For just a moment, when the players took the field, L.A. Loyola High left third base empty.

That was Ryan Times' position. The beaming boy who, according to teammate and best friend Griffin Salerno, said any stranger was simply "someone he wasn't friends with yet." The fierce competitor who drew a forlorn smile from coach Keith Ramsey, remembering Times' eagerness to bounce up on the mound in a 9-0 loss. That was Times' spot when he was a Cub, a past tense that still feels impossible to shell-shocked friends and teammates, and Loyola wanted its community to just feel how much he meant.

So in warmups before last Tuesday's first inning against Sherman Oaks Notre Dame, they left third base empty. Shortstop Adam Magpoc jogged out to the dirt, a few yards away, and the void hit him.

He turned away from the infield for a moment, the emotions too much, knowing the kid he had played next to for seven years in travel ball and high school was gone. He cried a bit.

Then he turned around and picked his head up.

"Because I know," Magpoc said, "that's what [Ryan] stood for."

Times was struck by a train and died. He was 18.

Softball

It was No. 1 vs. No. 2 on the softball diamond last week, and No. 2 won. No. 1 Los Alamitos was beaten by No. 2 Huntington Beach 3-2. The teams had a rematch Monday. Zoe Prystrajko, a Stanford commit, struck out 15, and Liah Lummus broke a 2-2 tie with a home run in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Pasadena Marshall coach Orquidea Labrador secured her 400th softball coaching victory in her 28th season.

Chino Hills shortstop Samantha Bland hit for the cycle in a win over Rancho Cucamonga, getting a home run, triple, double and single.

Sophomore Addison Moorman of Granada Hills struck out 15 in a 2-0 win over Birmingham.

Track

League finals will be held in the Southern Section, with one of the best Thursday when the Mission League finals are hosted by Sherman Oaks Notre Dame.

Chase Farrell, a junior wide receiver at Oaks Christian, showed he's getting faster and faster. He ran a 10.38-second, wind-legal 100 meters at the Ventura County championships, the second fastest time in the state and a school record. His teammate, freshman Deshonne Redeaux, ran 10.50.

Aaron Sahlman of Newbury Park ran 4:00.30 for a mile at a pro race at the Oregon Relays.

Championship schedule

The City Section continues to finalize sites for its spring sports championships, with several still not confirmed but getting close.

The competitive cheer championships will be held Saturday at Lake Balboa Birmingham in two sessions on the football field.

The tennis finals will be May 2 and 4 at Balboa Park.

The lacrosse finals are May 3 at Palisades.

The swimming prelims and finals will be held May 6 at Valley College.

The volleyball championships will be held May 12 at Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet and May 13 at Cal State Northridge.

The track and field prelims will be May 11 at Lake Balboa Birmingham, and the finals, soon to be finalized, will be May 18 at El Camino College.

The golf championships will be May 17 at Harding Golf Course.

The softball championships will be May 19 at Birmingham and May 20 at a site to be announced, with Cal State Dominguez Hills in the running.

The baseball championships will be May 26 at Stengel Field in Glendale and May 27 at Dodger Stadium.

Herrington on the mend

Only a movie scriptwriter could come up with a scenario of a football coach, who works at a high school named Hart, needing a new heart to save his life.

It happened for Rick Herrington, the head coach at Newhall Hart, who underwent heart transplant surgery a week ago at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and has been making progress since, according to his brother, Dean, who is the head coach at St. Francis.

"He's a little drowsy," Dean said last Tuesday night. "He can talk. It's going to be a long recovery, but he's ready to get after it."

Rick, 63, had been hospitalized since early March while waiting for a donor match.

"People down at UCLA are awesome," said brother Mike, the former head coach at Hart who has been handling the program in Rick's absence. "Knock on wood, things are good. Hopefully he gets all his strength and gets better day by day."

The Herringtons are a legendary family in the Santa Clarita Valley. They coached together at Hart when Mike was head coach, with Rick the defensive coordinator and Dean calling plays.

Rick loves to play golf, but Dean isn't going to show any sympathy when they're back on the course. Asked whether Rick will be beating him, Dean said, "Ah, no."

Volleyball

The Southern Section boys' volleyball playoff pairings were released Saturday. There's pool play in Division 1 with lots of intriguing matchups. Loyola received the No. 1 seed and Newport Harbor No. 2.

The championships are May 13 at Cerritos College.

Loyola won the Redondo Union tournament championship Saturday, defeating Mira Costa in the final.

It was a big moment for Hart volleyball last week. The Indians went unbeaten in the Foothill League and won the league title for the first time in 30 years.

Newport Harbor is picking up momentum after winning the Karch Kiraly tournament in Santa Barbara. Luca Curci was named tournament MVP. L.A. University won the Sylmar tournament.

Woodland Hills Taft won the City Section girls' beach volleyball team title.

Lacrosse

Santa Margarita won the Trinity League girls' lacrosse championship with a 16-12 victory over Mater Dei. Santa Margarita also upset No. 1 Mater Dei in boys' lacrosse 12-11.

Redondo Union and Manhattan Beach Mira Costa resumed their lacrosse rivalry last week.

Sophomore Julia Guidry of L.A. Marlborough scored her 100th career goal in a match against Newport Harbor.

Golf

After weeks of rain, golfers are getting into shape preparing for the big tournaments of May.

Loyola showed off its form by winning the Mission League championship with a school-record 13-under par at Soule Park in Ojai.

Will Redmon led the way with a 68, followed by freshman Carter Gaede with a 69.

The Southern Section individual regionals will take place May 8-10 at Bear Creek, Los Serranos and Los Robles.

The team championships are May 15 at Cross Creek, River Ridge, Sterling Hills, Los Serranos, Western Hills, Meadowlark and El Prado.

The Southern California individual finals are May 18 at Vineyard Course.

The regional state championships are May 24 at Los Serranos, with the state finals May 31 at Poppy Hills.

Notes ...

Pitcher JM Harduvel of Mater Dei committed to Cal. ...

Junior left-handed pitcher Ben Cushnie of Valencia West Ranch committed to USC. ...

The Southern Section Council voted to support the creation of team state championships for boys' and girls' tennis for 2023-24. ...

Kat Thyer is the new girls' volleyball coach at Studio City Campbell Hall. ...

Sophomore pitcher Angel Cervantes of Downey Warren committed to UCLA. ...

The Boras Classic baseball title game scheduled for Saturday at Santa Clara University has been canceled. Sherman Oaks Notre Dame was scheduled to play Cardinal Newman, but Notre Dame would have exceeded the 28-game regular-season limit. ...

Pasadena La Salle has an opening for a boys' basketball coach after Brandon Lincoln stepped down. ...

Defensive lineman T.A. Cunningham, who went to court to play football for Los Alamitos, left the school and moved to Florida. ...

Carlos Castillo is the new boys' basketball coach at Corona Santiago. ...

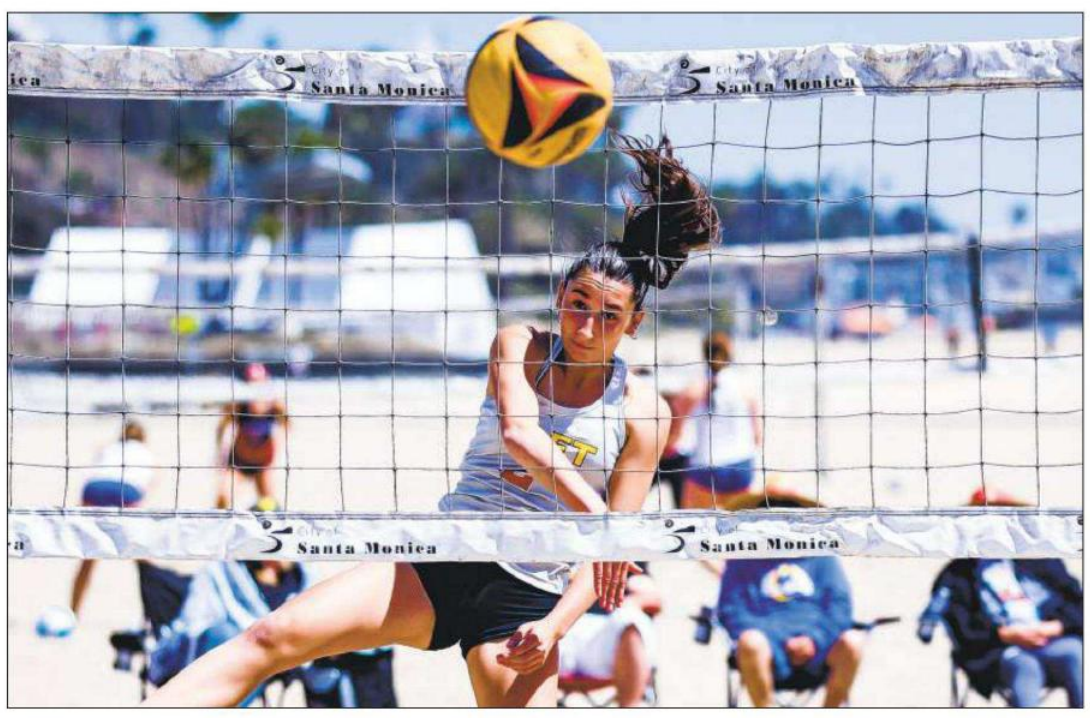
Sophomore Linkin Garcia of Huntington Beach committed to Vanderbilt for baseball.

Lucius Mills was hired as the football coach at Canoga Park. . . .

Jena Laolagi is the new girls' basketball coach at Sherman Oaks Notre Dame. She has coached at Calabasas, Chaminade and Shalhevet in recent years. ...

Lucas Mealy is the new football coach at La Mirada. He was the offensive coordinator at Orange. ...

Mission Viejo offensive lineman Mark Schroller committed to UCLA, where his father once blocked for the Bruins. He's in the class of 2024.



CRAIG WESTON For The Times

JULIA BAZYLEVYCH of Taft helped her team win the City beach volleyball championship.

Did you enjoy reading this excerpt of our Prep Rally newsletter? Visit latimes.com/newsletters to sign up and receive it in your inbox each Monday.

FORE TOLD

A NEW PODCAST

CAN A FORTUNETELLER CHANGE HER FUTURE?

"Foretold" is a new podcast from the L.A. Times, exploring the insular and sometimes misunderstood Romani community. In this series, Times reporter Faith Pinho is joined by Romani American fortuneteller Paulina Stevens for a unique perspective on life in a culture that outsiders rarely get to see.

Scan the code to listen and follow, or visit **latimes.com/foretold**

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TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 ⁘ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

Lemon fired by CNN after 17 years

Anchor's exit comes months after remarks about South Carolina ex-Gov. Nikki Haley.

By Meg James

Prominent CNN host Don Lemon on Monday announced that he has been fired after 17 years at the cable news network.

"I was informed this morning by my agent that I have been terminated by CNN," Lemon wrote in a statement posted on Twitter. "I am stunned. After 17 years at CNN I would have thought that someone in management would have had the decency to tell me directly."

His departure was swift. Lemon had appeared on "CNN This Morning" earlier in the day.

The network confirmed the news in a statement.

"CNN and Don have parted ways," CNN Chief Executive Chris Licht said in the statement. "Don will forever be a part of the CNN family, and we thank him for his contributions over the past 17 years. We wish him well and will be cheering him on in his future endeavors."

But CNN also challenged Lemon's account of how he was fired.

"Don Lemon's statement about this morning's events is inaccurate," the network said in a statement posted online. "He was offered an opportunity to meet with management but instead released a statement on Twitter."

The move came as CNN began facing resistance from advertisers and potential guests for the morning news

[See **Lemon,** E6]

Kirk McKoy Los Angeles Times

CNN fired longtime host Don Lemon on Monday.

Aldo Chacon For The Times

On a cultural road trip

John Leguizamo showcases the Latinx influence in a new series

By Jessica Gelt

John Leguizamo had been pitching a docuseries about Latinx excellence in America for two years before MSNBC finally picked up the idea, which became the six-part show "Leguizamo Does America." The new series, produced by NBC News Studios, is also streaming on Peacock.

Latinx representation matters to Leguizamo, and he says the reason the show got picked up in the first place is because in 2020 Cesar Conde was named chairman of the NBCUniversal News Group. Conde's father is an immigrant from Peru, and his mother is an immigrant from Cuba.

"A Latinx man who looks like me, who understands my culture, greenlit this show," Leguizamo, 62, says during an interview at the Sunset Marquis hotel in West Hollywood. "We pitched it to other people, but he's the one that bought it and gave us this opportunity."

"Leguizamo Does America" is part travelogue, part history

[See **Leguizamo,** E6]

James Ellroy loves the LAPD

The crime novelist shared controversial opinions over the weekend at the Festival of Books. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

An era of bans stirs their call for change

Angie Thomas and George M. Johnson direct a message to teen listeners.

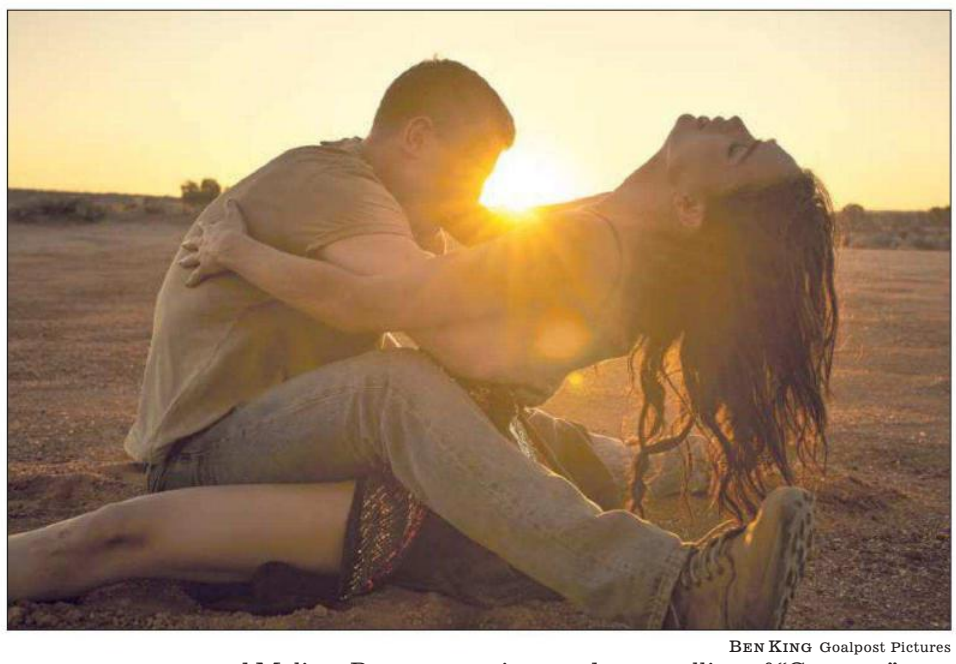
By Jireh Deng

"This is how fascism begins," warned George M. Johnson, author of the young adult novel "All Boys Aren't Blue," early in a sold-out panel on Sunday at USC's Newman Recital Hall during the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. But "Banned Books: Defending the Right to Read," which also featured "The Hate U Give" author Angie Thomas, was less focused on defining opponents of access to books than on the writers, librarians and students for whom the stakes are highest — and on the generation best positioned to fight back.

In 2022, the number of attempted book bans across the U.S. surged, almost doubling from 2021 and setting a 20-year record, according to the American Library Assn. There are concerns that these bans are disproportionately targeting queer writers and authors of color. In the school year spanning 2021 and 2022, PEN America — whose Los Angeles director, Allison Lee, moderated

[See **Books,** E3]

Capturing the poetry in motion



Ben King Goalpost Pictures

PAUL MESCAL and Melissa Barrera star in a modern retelling of "Carmen."

'Carmen' provides a glimpse into the power of dance in cinematic storytelling.

By Steven Vargas

Dance, commonly relegated to the background, is the main character in "Carmen."

Choreographer and former ballet dancer Benjamin Millepied pushes the boundaries of dance in his feature directorial debut.

Using movement to reinvent the Georges Bizet 1875 opera (and moving the story to the modern-day U.S.-Mexico border from Spain), Millepied tells a story rooted in dance.

[See **Dance,** E6]

MOVIE REVIEW

A rock legend gets his due

By Robert Abele

'Little Richard: I Am Everything'

Not rated
Running time: 1 hour, 38 minutes
Playing: In general release

There's a first for everything, and when it comes to rock 'n' roll, Little Richard was first *and* everything. The decades since, full of pop music ecstasies and controversies, can nearly all be traced back to his style-setting, out, raucously innovative brilliance.

The many strains in Georgia-born Richard Penniman that produced all that legendary music — chords of Black and queer, gospel and boogie woogie, spiritual and devilish, and always loud and proud — also kept him a perennially overlooked, shapeshifting outsider in a white-favored industry, one with its own powerful counter-riffs of exclusion and exploitation.

All of it gets unpacked in Lisa Cortés' embracing, ear-pleasing and fizzy documentary "Little Richard: I Am Everything," a long-overdue creation corrective that gives an outwardly revolutionary cultural icon his trailblazing due at the same time it grapples with the conflicted soul that rarely knew a lasting inner peace.

From the performance clips alone of his rock-birthing heyday, when he looked like a flame and played like an inferno, the time travel fantasies will be intense for viewers who never saw him command a stage. But outside those snippets, and the well-deployed footage from his typically revealing talk show appearances, the flamboyant architect of rock 'n' roll isn't around any longer to speak for himself. (Richard died in 2020 at the age of 87.)

And yet one wonders which Richard might have shown up if Cortés could have interviewed him: the freewheeling raconteur who called it like it was ("I'm not conceited, I'm *convinced*") and enjoyed spilling the raunchy origins of "Tutti Frutti," or the Bible-thumping minister's son, renouncing the gender-nonconforming self-expression that electrified the world. What he invented gave him a life, while stardom set loose his hedonism, but when guilt overtook him, he'd credit God with delivering him, not the immensely talented, cross-dressing boy whose scorched-and-sexy fabulousness freed teenagers everywhere. A common refrain we hear is how Richard's message of liberation had another edge: He sometimes fled from who he was too.

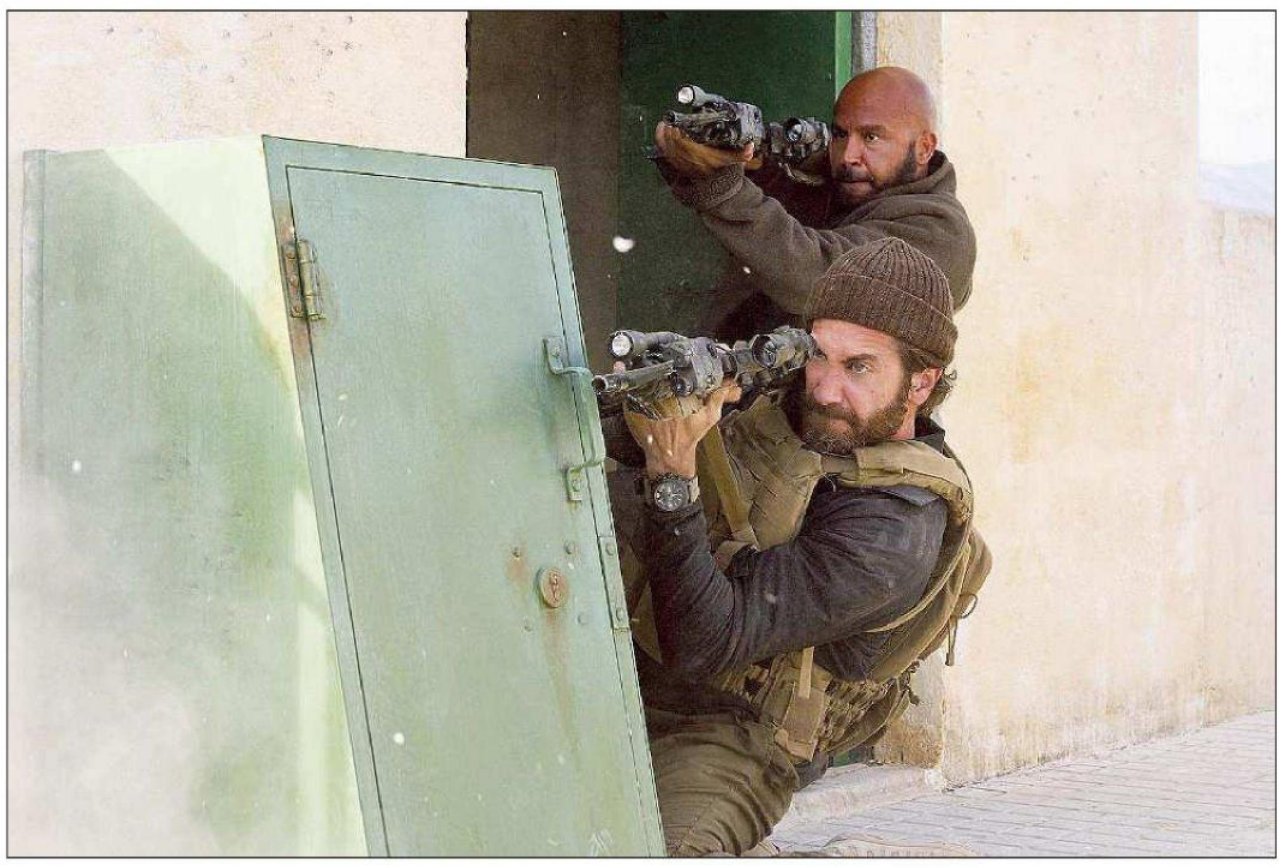
The Little Richard story is a roller-coaster ride of highs and lows, and Cortés' telling of it finds a keen balance between zigzagging energy and artful context. Interviews and footage dominate, naturally, but there are also original performances — Valerie June channeling gospel godmother of rock Sister Rosetta Tharpe (an early influence of Richard's) — and the occasional visual effects overlay of luminous particulates, suggesting variously what's cosmic and fiery about key moments in the artist's narrative.

Naturally there are famous faces lauding his influence — Mick Jagger, who co-opted his stage-roaming swagger; John Waters, whose mustache is a tribute; and Tom Jones, who wasn't the first target of tossed panties — but they don't overpower the affecting testimony from those who knew him intimately, who give voice to his split personae. Seminary classmate turned road manager Keith Winslow describes tour nights marked by both debauchery and prayer. Trans performer Sir Lady Java found an early friend/supporter in Richard — himself a pancaked-and-pompadoured graduate of the Black South's drag clubs — but was pained by the anti-gay rhetoric of his later, more evangelically driven years.

Rounding out the empathy-fueled contextualizing in "Little Richard: I Am Everything" is a heady mix of scholars and writers of color (including Jason King, Fredara Hadley and Zandria Robinson) offering potent commentary on rock's Black and queer roots, and the visibility problem created when the record is enshrined in whiteness — literally and figuratively, from Pat Boone covers to Hall of Fame recognition. That these interviewees' analysis isn't solely from an academic remove helps Cortés craft a prism for viewing Richard — an understandably tough nut to crack as a human being — that's as emotional as it is historical. That approach is needed right now, too, especially with the political winds getting scarier for the marginalized pockets of culture that produced this documentary's raw, glittering, gifted subject.

Pictorial Press Ltd. / Alamy Stock Photo

LITTLE RICHARD preps at Los Angeles' Wrigley Field on Sept. 2, 1956, as seen in a new documentary.



Christopher Raphael Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures

JAKE GYLLENHAAL, left, is a U.S. soldier; Dar Salim portrays his Afghan interpreter in "The Covenant."

MOVIE REVIEW

Intense bond shines through

'Guy Ritchie's the Covenant' vividly depicts brotherhood forged in war.

By Katie Walsh

'Guy Ritchie's the Covenant'

Rated: R, for violence, language throughout and brief drug content)
Running time: 2 hours, 3 minutes
Playing: In general release

For the last few years, Guy Ritchie and his filmmaking collaborators have alternated between lightweight larks and hefty tales of masculinity. There was the 2019 ensemble crime comedy "The Gentlemen," followed by the heavy-duty "Heat" riff "Wrath of Man," which was chased by the globe-trotting spycraft romp "Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre." Swinging back to a more serious register, Ritchie presents his first film grounded in harsh real-world politics, "Guy Ritchie's the Covenant," and it's the best film he's made in years.

While not based on a true story, the film is inspired by the many true, tragic stories of Afghan interpreters who worked with the United States military for more than 20 years, were promised visas and then left to fend for themselves in a hostile country after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. Ritchie and co-writers Ivan Atkinson and Marn Davies have crafted a story that fits into his auteurist point of view, about the deals made between men and the sacred responsibility to hold up one's end of the bargain.

Ritchie plays with text-based information dumps in the film, scattering locations, names and definitions of military jargon throughout. But at the very end there's a definition that illuminates the title and underlines the film's thesis: the word "covenant," defined as a bond, a pledge, a commitment.

On one side of this covenant is Sgt. John Kinley (Jake Gyllenhaal), a tough, swaggering weapons and explosives hunter who leads a tight crew of soldiers, intimately bonded through dust and danger. On the other is John's new interpreter Ahmed (Dar Salim), a man of few words possessed of a razor-sharp ability to read people and situations, possibly thanks to a shady past. He takes the role of "interpreter" seriously — he doesn't just translate the language but reads the nonverbal signs, the inflections and expressions, to deduce the truth.

The team uncovers a huge IED factory in a remote location, and comes under fire from the Taliban, who arrive in endless waves brandishing rifles from Toyota trucks. What unfolds is an unbelievable tale of survival, sacrifice and redemption, a male melodrama about bonds and bargains forged in blood. When Ahmed and John find themselves alone in the wilderness, John mortally wounded, hunted by the Taliban, Ahmed drags him back to the base at great risk to his own safety. It's a lifesaving act of love, generosity and sacrifice that delivers John back home and leaves Ahmed on the run with his wife and baby, hunted by the Taliban for killing their soldiers and collaborating with an American.

John is racked with guilt, haunted by memory, frustrated at the bureaucracy that fails to deliver the visas they promised, and he takes matters into his own hands, going outside the system at his own expense, knowing that the only way to repay his debt is with the same kind of personal risk and potential sacrifice.

Ritchie bites off meatier material with "The Covenant," and it's a pleasure to see him work with two legitimately great actors as well. Both characters communicate frequently without words, using their eyes and bodies to convey the unspoken. Both men have an air of mystery — is Ahmed too "wild"? Will John do right by his interpreter? They must prove themselves to each other through actions. Salim brings a serious soulfulness to Ahmed and the care he administers; Gyllenhaal applies his wild-eyed intensity to John's mission, using every advantage he has to leverage the weight of the military machine in Ahmed's favor.

Ritchie forges their bond cinematically, with the camera lens pulling the two men together during their shared glances. The push-pull rhythm is repeated throughout, in composer Christopher Benstead's score, which alternates between tribal drumming and slow, sad strings. The camera regards the landscape from the sky in ethereal drone shots situating our characters in space, or gets down and dirty on the ground with chaotic handheld shots capturing close-up moments of hand-to-hand combat. A flashback sequence in which John recalls being dragged over mountains to safety is lyrical and surreal, placing us inside his memories to understand what motivates his dangerous quest.

At times the acting, filmmaking and tone are a bit too thrilling, considering the seriousness of the topic. Tackling such an overtly political subject is a new direction for Ritchie, though examined through the perspective of his oeuvre, it's not so radical, considering it's a story about a lone man harnessing a criminal mindset to go outside the system to pay off his debt. His approach is to inspect this question on a micro, man-to-man level, but extrapolated to the macro, it's damning to consider the many life-or-death deals left unfulfilled in Afghanistan.

Walsh is a Tribune News Service film critic.

MOVIE REVIEW

Celebrates the GOAT of YA authors

By Noel Murray

In the more than 50 years that Judy Blume has been a bestselling author, she has endured wave after wave of bans and backlashes, provoked by parents organizations outraged by how honest her characters can be about their desires and their bodies. Yet her pioneering young adult novels like "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," "Blubber" and "Forever..." still get read, generation after generation, because the adolescents in Blume's stories talk like real kids: moody, anxious and preoccupied with the wrenching physical and emotional changes of growing up.

Davina Pardo and Leah Wolchok's touching documentary "Judy Blume Forever" is anchored by a comprehensive conversation with Blume, now in her 80s and as disarmingly frank and cheery as ever. She looks back at her life and career, and discusses how they intertwined in ways that inspired her best work. A suburban housewife and aspiring writer in the 1960s, Blume hit on the idea of writing from the perspective of the child she used to be and the children she saw every day. Her audience — used to simplistic books about teen detectives and heroic animals — could tell right away these novels were different. They spread the world and turned reading Blume into a rite of passage.

Pardo and Wolchok supplement their Blume interview with input from her now-grown children and some famous fans — from actors such as Lena Dunham and Molly Ringwald to writers including Mary H.K. Choi and Jacqueline Woodson. They all offer their own insights into the feeling of sitting alone with a Blume book, reading words that seemed to describe situations directly pulled from their own lives — but which no one had ever articulated to them before.

Throughout the film, Pardo and Wolchok include interviews with some of the people who wrote letters to Blume, and include scenes of Blume rereading those letters today — as well as her reading her own replies, because she was unusually diligent about answering fan mail. The letters are full of confessions and questions. Even today, Blume's readers often see her as the one adult who isn't actively trying to shelter them from the truth.

"Judy Blume Forever" also gets into the efforts to ban her books from public libraries in the Reagan era — and again today. The story of the censorship campaigns and the story of Blume's correspondence are what really elevate this documentary from being just another nice movie about a beloved artist. There's something else being expressed here, having to do with the power of great writing to connect with people in ways sometimes so intense that it's scary. That's why even when Blume's books get pulled from shelves, kids still pass them around, with certain pages dogeared and passages circled. Because some things can't be suppressed.

Prime Video

"JUDY BLUME FOREVER" offers a comprehensive look at the beloved writer's enduring popularity.

'Judy Blume Forever'

Not rated
Running time: 1 hour, 37 minutes
Playing: Laemmle Royal, West Los Angeles; also available on Prime Video

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
CARMEN R 1:00 4:00 7:00
EVERYTHING WENT FINE 1:20 4:20 7:20
JUDY BLUME FOREVER 1:30 4:30 7:30

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:45 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:10
MATTER OUT OF PLACE 1:00 PM
WILD LIFE PG-13 1:10 4:30 5:15 7:30
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:10 PM
SHOWING UP R 1:20 7:20
AIR R 1:10 4:00 7:00
DOSED: THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME 1:00 3:10 7:30

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
CHEVALIER PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 1:00 4:00 7:00
EVERYTHING WENT FINE 1:10 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R 1:30 4:30 7:30
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:00 PM
AIR R 1:00 4:10 7:10

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:20
EVIL DEAD RISE R 1:30 4:20 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R 4:35 PM
THE POPE'S EXORCIST R 1:20 4:00 7:10
RENFIELD R 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
AIR R 1:20 4:10 7:20
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:50 3:00 5:15 7:30

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:50 7:10
THE BEST MAN R 1:30 PM
BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN 4:10 PM
MATTER OUT OF PLACE 1:00 PM
RENFIELD R 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:40
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:30 7:20
SHOWING UP R 1:10 4:35 7:35
TOMMY GUNS 7:00 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:50 7:10
CADEJO BLANCO 1:10 4:10 7:10
TO CATCH A KILLER R 1:20 4:30 7:20
MAFIA MAMMA R 4:40 PM
RENFIELD R 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 1:10 7:40
AIR R 1:20 4:10 7:00
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:45 7:10
MAFIA MAMMA R 4:40 PM
MATTER OUT OF PLACE 1:00 PM
RENFIELD R 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 7:30 PM
AIR R 1:20 4:20 7:20
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

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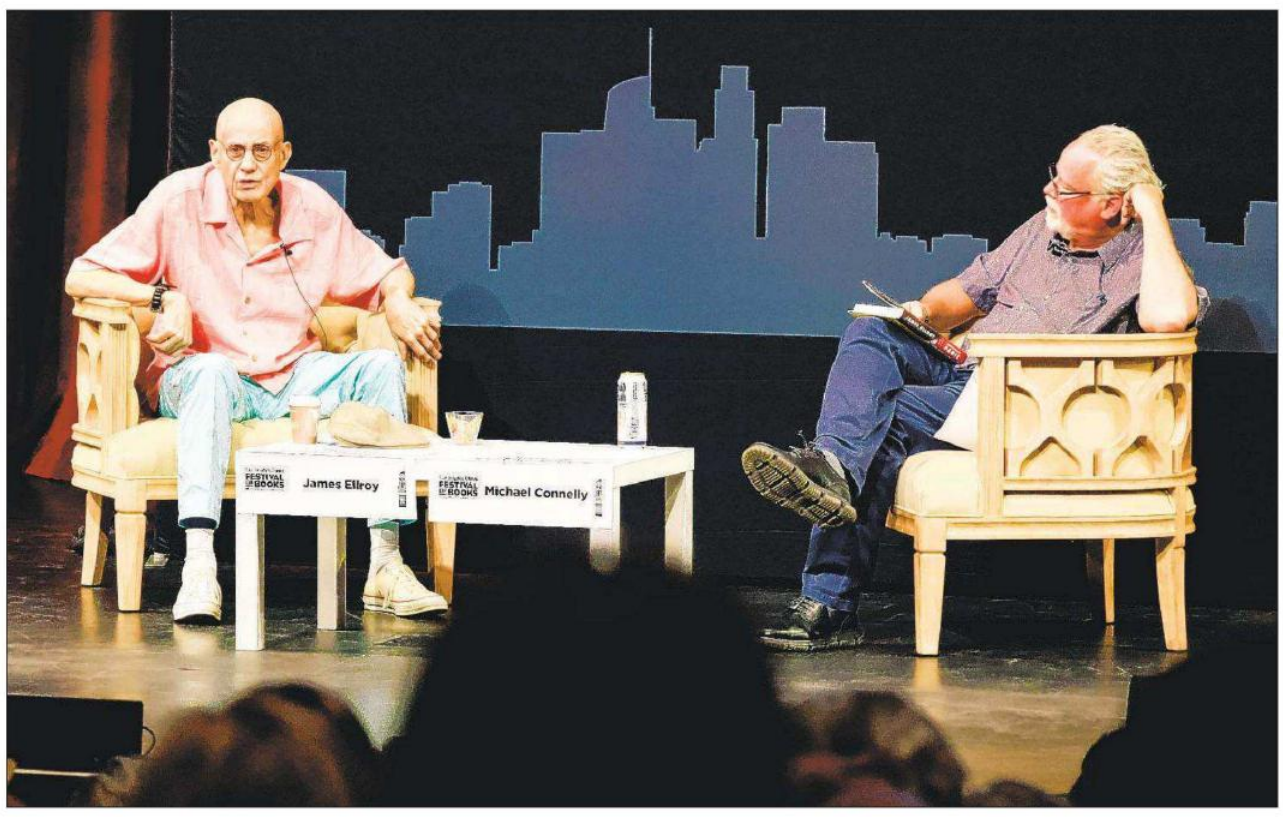
FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

It's all about L.A. for author James Ellroy

The crime novelist loves the LAPD but hates the film of his 'L.A. Confidential.'

By Emily St. Martin



Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

JAMES ELLROY, left, was interviewed by Michael Connelly after receiving the fest's Robert Kirsch Award.

James Ellroy walked onstage Saturday in teal slacks, a bubble-gum pink button-up and white Converse sneakers, motioning for the L.A. Times Festival of Books audience to keep up its roar of applause greeting him and his interviewer, crime novelist Michael Connelly.

Friday night at the 43rd L.A. Times Book Prizes, Ellroy received the Robert Kirsch Award for lifetime achievement, and Connelly kicked off the discussion by asking Ellroy how he felt about it. "It was the most significant and pertinent award I've ever received," Ellroy told the crowd at USC's Bovard Auditorium.

"Widespread Panic" is Ellroy's latest crime novel, and Connelly said it's his best.

The book follows Freddy Otash, a real-life Los Angeles Police officer, private eye, Hollywood fixer and head goon for Confidential magazine, through 1950s Hollywood. Ellroy researched the book more than 30 years ago with Otash himself.

Ellroy said he humanized Otash for "Widespread Panic" but still described the man as the "evil godfather of the TMZ scandal rag era."

"He was a freelance extortionist and had hotel suites hot-wired all over the city. He had the dirt, the skank, the skinny — and it was all true," Ellroy said. "Freddy was in his heart a chicken, he was charmless, he was brutal."

For Ellroy, the old saying of "if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all" does not apply. Ellroy talked at great length about his love for all things Los Angeles, especially the LAPD, and his hate for the late Raymond Chandler, James Dean, cancel culture, the film adaptation of "L.A. Confidential" and his complete disinterest in literature that isn't about crime or that's written outside of America.

"Raymond Chandler is full of [crap]," he said. "He wrote the man he wanted to be. I hate Chandler."

"People love the movie 'L.A. Confidential,' " Ellroy said. "I think it's turkey of the highest form," he continued, calling the performances by Guy Pearce, Russell Crowe and Kim Basinger "impotent." "The director [Curtis Hanson] died, so now I can disparage the movie."

Ellroy on his own reading habits: "I've read almost no work by non-American writers," he said. "What can I say: I'm the American Dostoevsky and I've never read the guy."

Ellroy continued that he didn't care about St. Petersburg, Russia, in the 1860s ("Crime and Punishment") and that, for him, "it's gotta be Los Angeles, it's gotta be about my love for the Los Angeles Police Department."

In more expletive-laden language, Ellroy said he loves a tough police department. "I love the LAPD, and they kicked my tall skinny [butt] on three notable occasions," he said. "I have not stolen so much as a paper clip in 53 years. My relationship with the Los Angeles Police Department is in no way PC, it's in no way current, it's in no way topical. It's loving, it's paternal."

He did praise a few writers and films, including crime writers Dashiell Hammett and Ross Macdonald, and Robert Altman's "Nashville," and quoted at length from W.H. Auden.

When an audience member asked Ellroy what he thought of cancel culture, the "Black Dahlia" author quipped, "I think it's a bunch of [crap]. I think you can't let fear run your life. I think censorship is permeating, soul-destroying and polluting our country."

It's fairly well-known among crime novel connoisseurs that Ellroy's fixation on crime stemmed from the 1958 rape and murder of his mother, when he was 10 years old.

He worked with the LAPD for 15 months investigating the case, which still remains unsolved, and used the experience when penning his 1996 memoir, "My Dark Places."

When it was time for the Q&A, an audience member asked Ellroy about the murder of his mother and what he would say to her if she were here today. "She's not here," he snapped.

"We weren't close. I don't think about my mother's death much anymore."

Connelly offered some levity to the awkward exchange with a joke about closure being stuffed where the sun don't shine, and Ellroy started to stroke the air, miming masturbation, and said, "Yeah, I got your closure swingin' 12 inches right here."

A call issued to the young

[**Books,** from E1]

the panel — reported that nearly half of the banned books were YA novels, 41% featured an LGBTQ character and 40% had a character of color.

Johnson, whose book is currently the third most challenged book in 2021, said he believes this is intentional and driven by fears that Generation Z, the most racially diverse and LGBTQ-identifying demographic, is threatening to push major changes at the ballot box.

"When they become the next governors, senators, people in power, they already go into these systems wanting to dismantle them," said Johnson, whose receptive audience included an entire class visiting from Los Angeles Unified School District's Fairfax High School. (The fourth panelist, Peter Coyl, is the president of the Freedom to Read Foundation, winner of this year's L.A. Times Innovators' Award.)

Thomas added that books like hers are seen as dangerous because of the immense power they have to create change through empathy. "The Hate U Give" (2017) was inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and offered a critical look at race and police violence in the U.S. The New York Times bestseller was adapted into a 2018 film by the same name.

Six years later, Thomas says she is still overwhelmed and gratified by the response from all types of readers and viewers who have applied lessons from her book to their lives and politics.

But both writers on the panel were eager to emphasize that they didn't publish their books to have them banned. "We weren't writing to have a political agenda," Thomas said. "We were writing about experiences. We were writing about real people. I've had 16-year-old white, rural Americans tell me, 'I didn't know any Black people. But this book helps me to learn things that Black people have gone through.' "

Coyl, who is also director of the Sacramento Public Library system, said that while Californians might not be affected by book bans in states like Florida and Texas, libraries that intentionally focus on inclusive programming are still vulnerable to backlash. Just last year, he noted, a drag queen story hour in an Alameda County library was interrupted by Proud Boys.

That violence, he said, is now a part of their daily lives.

"We start thinking, as librarians, 'What plans do we have to have in place? Do we need to have extra security?' " Coyl said. "These are the things going through our minds now whenever we're planning a program, not just drag in story time, but anything that could possibly be controversial."

Far from sounding defeated, the panelists repeatedly expressed optimism.

Coyl said the siege of public institutions has forced young people to be politically active in unprecedented ways, in many cases leading the charge against bans.

"I think that adults need to take more notice that kids and young people know a lot more than we give them credit for," he said. "When they see injustice, they speak up against it. If [a book] speaks to them, they will find it. They also know what they don't want to read. Like, have you ever tried to get a kid to do something they don't want to do?"

Johnson recalled that as a young Black queer person he never saw himself in any books he read. Some of the readers who told him his work made them feel seen for the first time were not young at all, he said, but well into their 60s.

Given the impact of books like his, he said bans have only led him to redouble his efforts. "My philosophy has been, 'Well they can't ban all the damn books,' " said Johnson. "So I keep writing."

During the Q&A session, one student from Fairfax High nervously asked the panelists if they had any advice on becoming a writer. Thomas advised her to "read as much as you can." The student then walked up on stage to have her books signed by Thomas and Johnson — a breach of protocol that became a scene of sweet solidarity.

Much of the conversation focused on the power of the generation represented in that class.

"There are things that are happening right now in your community, in your neighborhood, your school, that you have the power to change, and you could do something about them. That's how you change the world," Thomas said. "The power you have is stronger than the hate anybody could give."

"You don't have to reinvent the wheel," only get it moving, she added, but she acknowledged that progress can be slow, grinding work. She pointed to her newest book, "Nic Blake and the Remarkables." Fifteen years ago, she wrote a draft of it, only to receive more than 300 rejections. But she kept revising and querying, and last week the book was on the New York Times' bestseller list. Her counsel on activism, as in writing, involved both persistence and patience.

"I challenge you all to create a world where we don't have to have a banned books panel," she said as a parting message to the audience. "Create a world where a panel like this is not necessary."

AUTHORS Angie Thomas and George M. Johnson aim to inspire at the "Banned Books" panel talk.

Photographs by Jason Armond Los Angeles Times

LIBRARIANS now ask, "Do we need to have extra security?" says Freedom to Read's Peter Coyl.

Deng is a queer Angeleno and multimedia journalist.

Cohen Media Group

SOPHIE MARCEAU and André Dussollier in the movie "Everything Went Fine."

MOVIE REVIEW

Dad's not into long goodbyes

By Robert Abele

'Everything Went Fine'

In French with English subtitles
Not rated
Running time: 1 hour, 50 minutes
Playing: Laemmle Royal, West Los Angeles

The standard family contract is built on an accepted progression of milestones given due celebration, and mourned exits treated as the shocks they usually aren't. But the rhythm of that wide-ranging togetherness is disrupted in François Ozon's "Everything Went Fine" when an elderly, infirm father (André Dussollier) makes a hard request of his adult daughter (Sophie Marceau): Can his goodbye be sped up?

Movies about someone's desire to die on their own terms — the reality-based kind, not death-wish action films — are few and far enough between that the topic is still treated like an op-ed issue first, a story about people second. But Ozon's observant, sensitive adaptation of Emmanuèle Bernheim's same-titled memoir about assisting her dad's dying is the furthest thing from a topic-driven morality play (as the contours of Ozon's 2017 priest abuse docudrama "By the Grace of God" necessitated it partly become).

Instead, "Everything" — anchored by strong performances from Marceau and Dussollier — is a refreshingly in-the-moment chronicle of what it means to love someone enough to grant them something so final, and, in a society that doesn't fully accept it, to see it through legally and logistically. By turns life-affirming and anguished, but never sentimental, it's also adapter Ozon's fitting tribute to a treasured collaborator: author Bernheim, who co-wrote a handful of the prolific filmmaker's earlier successes, including "Under the Sand" and "Swimming Pool," died of cancer in 2017.

When their art-collector father, André (Dussollier), suffers a debilitating stroke, novelist Emmanuèle (Marceau) and her sister Pascale (Géraldine Pailhas) swing into action as attentive carers at the hospital. Never easy to deal with but cherished by his daughters for his zestful approach to life, André would nevertheless rather go than fight. That he assigns this psychologically straining task to Emmanuèle — the one he had the most up-and-down relationship with — is viewed by the sisters as an act of either "love or perversity."

Emmanuèle and Pascale agree that they can't refuse their rascally charming dad. But as his recovery reignites his personality, and the careful severity of the assisted-suicide process becomes apparent — plotting it all with the guidance of a kind Swiss woman (a beatifically grandma-like Hanna Schygulla) from a right-to-die association, while avoiding legal peril — they can't help but hold out unspoken hope that his lust for life will spark again.

It's to Ozon's credit, however, that we never view André as a lost cause but, rather, someone eagerly directing his own last scene, with resigned, affectionate, if sometimes exasperated conspirators.

At heart, in its firmness of pace and shotmaking, "Everything Went Fine" is like a family procedural — sometimes tearful, sometimes funny, even suspenseful. (It's not just the authorities they have to look out for, but an unstable ex of André's.) For all its spirited matter-of-factness, "Everything Went Fine" could be about a tense holiday, a fraught wedding or an amicable divorce. Though we're in the chronology of an ending, Ozon wisely orchestrates a timeline of living, not dying.

The detail-rich performances keep it soberly affirming. We're always in Emmanuèle's space, whether she's alone and pensive, on her toes with Dad, comforted with her lover (Eric Caravaca), or with Pascale and freer to feel things; and Marceau covers it all with a commanding mix of energy and poise. Dussolier, meanwhile, understands acutely that André is one of life's scene-stealers, whether the focus is pity or vitality — his portrayal defines the phrase "a piece of work." And Pailhas plays the supportive sister with just enough prickliness to suggest all the complexity within that fondness.

But the movie's truest line belongs to Charlotte Rampling. She's only in a handful of scenes, the long-suffering, grim-faced wife of André, an openly gay narcissist whom she never divorced, and now too ill herself to care about him. But she was also an acclaimed clay and cement sculptor — Claude de Soria — and in a flashback in her studio, her daughter wonders why all her work is so gray. "There are so many colors in gray," she says.

COMICS

SUDOKU

Level: Gentle

7								3
3		9			4		8	2
					5	6		
		1		9				
	6		5		1		3	
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4	3		2			8		9
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Level: Gentle

	5				
	4	3			
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			1	5	
		5		6	

4/25/23

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Solutions to Monday's puzzles

1	2	3	5	4	9	8	7	6
9	7	5	3	8	6	1	2	4
8	6	4	7	2	1	5	3	9
2	9	8	1	6	4	7	5	3
4	3	6	2	7	5	9	1	8
7	5	1	8	9	3	4	6	2
3	8	7	4	5	2	6	9	1
5	1	9	6	3	8	2	4	7
6	4	2	9	1	7	3	8	5

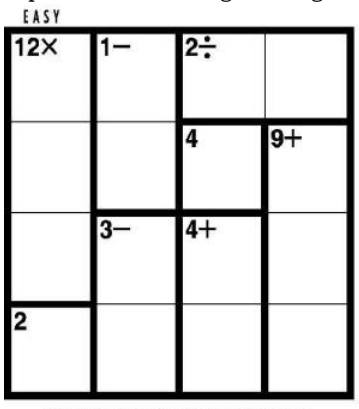
2	5	6	4	3	1
4	3	1	6	5	2
6	4	2	3	1	5
3	1	5	2	4	6
1	6	3	5	2	4
5	2	4	1	6	3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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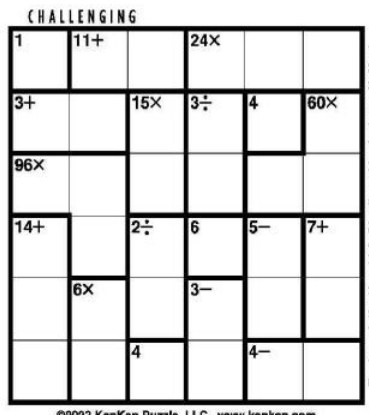
CHALLENGING



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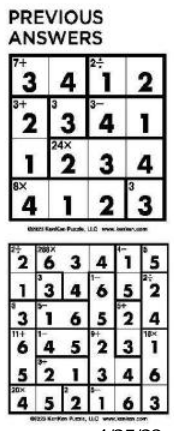
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



4/25/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): If you think you're not doing enough but are too tired to do more, there's a reason: You skipped the recuperation phase.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Even as you work toward a more comprehensive understanding of things, it is wise to accept the gargantuan mystery.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): It's not necessary to condemn the parts of life that are not for you. Be grateful for the contrast that such circumstances provide.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): It's possible an authority holds power over you for no reason other than because you gave it to them.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Explore more ideas, options and relationships. New insights and tools will give you the breakthrough you need to succeed.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When confronted with bad attitudes, remain constant and things will eventually tilt your way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Being uncomfortable is a good sign that you're growing. The way forward usually involves some degree of discomfort.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): It's annoying when someone makes you work for attention. Stay conscious of subtle power dynamics in play.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The role you fill in an organization or in your family is not one just anyone could step into. Today, they just need you to relax and be you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Any fluctuation from the norm requires you to adapt. Give yourself a chance to stabilize.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are charming without knowing it, and you can't help who falls under your spell. People will open up to you and trust you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): People will go out of their way for you, a reaction to the great affection you inspire.

Today's birthday (April 25): An unexpected turnaround sets your year off on a joyful high. What you were struggling against suddenly gives in to your power, and you move your life into the realm you once only dreamed about. Love blossoms in the spirit of freedom and acceptance. Fortune favors your search for excellent partners, professional alliances and team members. Ideal relationships are not unchanging but built around changing together. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers: 4, 10, 3, 33 and 28.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Jennifer Lee and Victor Galson

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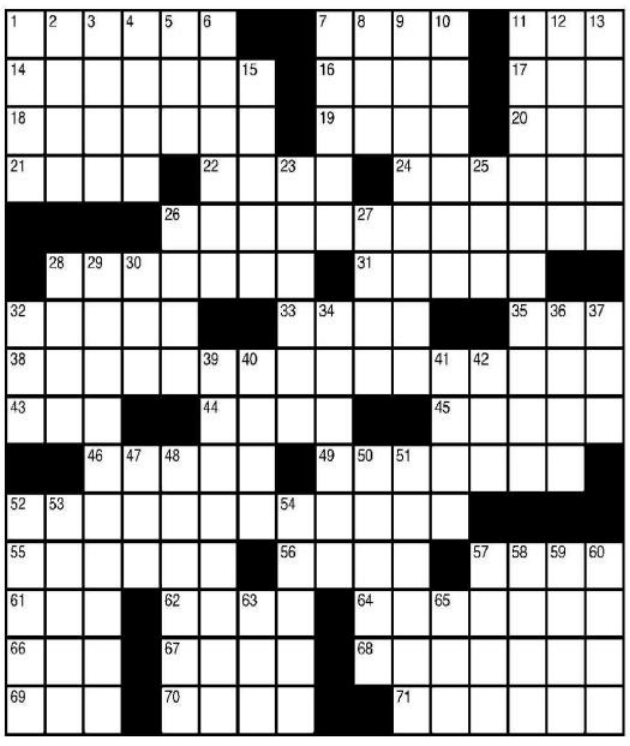


ACROSS
1 American marsupial, familiarly
7 "__, Brute?"
11 Swimmer's unit
14 Military maneuvers?
16 Speckled horse
17 Rideshare driver's guess
18 Slopes accessory
19 French pals
20 Oinker's pen
21 Autocorrect target
22 Online store icon
24 TV collie
26 Inauguration text
28 "Searching for Italy" host Tucci
31 Stackable cookies
32 Bagel-shaped
33 Jog
35 X-ray kin
38 Baha Men hit single
43 Alley-__ pass
44 Unsubtle actors
45 Buenos __
46 One on the Pacific Crest Trail, say
49 Revolved around
52 Dystopian thriller starring Charlton Heston
55 Get started on, as a problem
56 Ear-related
57 Border
61 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup champs
62 Airbnb alternative
64 Ad campaign featuring white mustaches, and a hint to the starts of the answers to 18-, 26-, 38-, and 52-Across
66 Put down
67 Currier and __
68 "Forget it!"
69 Chicago-to-Orlando dir.
70 State bird of Hawaii
71 Holiday treats served with applesauce

DOWN
1 Attention-getting hiss
2 Like wine aged in certain barrels
3 __ of the tongue
4 Japanese wrestling form
5 The NBA's Jazz, on scoreboards
6 Smoky liquor made from agave
7 Muse of poetry
8 Celebrity chef Colicchio
9 Customize for
10 Treacherous
11 "You're trying too hard"
12 Scary story?
13 Venmo recipient
15 Enjoy the roller rink
23 Part of R&B
25 Bay Area hub, for short
26 __ in a blue moon
27 Comestibles
28 NYC nabe near Little Italy
29 Place to store cups and bowls?
30 Feel unwell
32 Pair
34 Vacation spot
36 Regretted
37 "__ go time!"
39 "I can't believe they did that!"
40 Like Key lime pie
41 Acquire
42 Word often said while holding a treat
47 Kind
48 Temperature unit
50 1952-2022, for Queen Elizabeth II
51 "Don't embarrass me"
52 Small earrings
53 Fertile desert spot
54 Bird in a gaggle
57 Let off
58 NBA great Nowitzki
59 Mirth
60 Squeezes (out)
63 Actor Kingsley
65 Airport safety gp.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

C	A	C	T	I		H	B	O			A	R	M	S
A	L	A	R	M		A	R	O	D		N	A	O	H
L	I	N	E	O	F	L	I	F	E		O	N	L	Y
M	A	D			A	L	E		B	R	I	D	A	L
		L	O	A	D	O	F	L	A	U	N	D	R	Y
	F	E	N	C	E				I	C	E	T		
J	E	W	E	L		C	A	L	L			U	A	E
L	E	A	G	U	E	O	F	L	E	G	E	N	D	S
O	S	X			A	R	T	Y		I	V	I	E	S
			O	T	R	A			O	R	I	O	N	
L	A	N	D	O	F	L	I	N	C	O	L	N		
I	N	S	I	T	U		N	A	H			B	E	T
E	D	Y	S		L	O	T	S	O	F	L	O	V	E
G	E	N	T		S	O	R	T		R	O	S	I	E
E	S	C	S			H	O	Y		O	L	S	E	N

4/25/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

"Know any bar jokes?" I asked my friend the English professor, who doubles as a humorist.

"You mean such as, two quotation marks walk into a 'bar'?"

I groaned.

Today's West led the jack of diamonds against four hearts, and South saw the handwriting on the wall: He faced a loser in each suit. South took the ace but did not lead trumps; a losing finesse would let West continue diamonds to set up a winner. South led a spade to his jack and back to dummy's king. East won and led a trump.

South managed the trumps correctly: He did not finesse (giving West a chance to clear dummy's trumps). Instead South put up the ace, led a diamond to dummy, threw his last diamond on the queen of spades and lost the club finesse.

West returned a club, but South won and ruffed his last club in dummy. He lost a trump to West but made his game. Well played!

You hold: ♠ K Q 5 2 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ A K 6 5 ♣ 8 4. You open one diamond, your partner responds one spade, you raise to two spades and he bids 2NT. What do you say?

Answer: Partner's 2NT is a try for game and suggests about 11 points, balanced. You must sign off with your minimum. Since you have four-card spade support, bid three spades. You would jump to four spades with K 10 5 2, 8 7 2, A K 6 5, A 4 or bid 3NT with J 5 3 2, Q 7, A K 6 5, A 10 4 or A J 2, 7 2, A K 9 7 6, Q 8 4.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K Q 5 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ A K 6 5
♣ 8 4

WEST
♠ 9 8 7 3
♥ Q 4 3
♦ J 10
♣ K J 5 2

EAST
♠ A 10 6
♥ 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 2
♣ 10 9 6 3

SOUTH
♠ J 4
♥ A K J 10 9
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A Q 7

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♦ J

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

She feels bitter, betrayed

Dear Amy: My husband was diagnosed with ALS at the age of 67.

About six months after diagnosis, we had a graduation picnic for our granddaughter.

My brother-in-law came, got drunk and, as he left, banged our daughter's car and told no one. (We were not aware he was so drunk.)

My husband called his brother and he admitted that he'd hit her car, but said he was too drunk to return to the party, so he was going to call later the next day.

My daughter called and lectured him about drinking and driving and was pretty hard on him. I did the same.

He texted us and said he didn't need to be lectured by us and that we wouldn't see him again. He said he'd send a check for the damage.

My husband called him and did not lecture him but said that we were concerned about his drinking. (We had expressed this in the past.)

Over the next two years, he never checked on my declining husband and did not come to his funeral less than three years later.

My kids and I are bitter.

My husband died feeling very betrayed, and I can't shake my resentment.

What are your thoughts?

Bitter

Dear Bitter: I think you have a few things to feel bitter about, your husband's decline and death from a punishing and heartbreaking disease being one.

It is obvious how disappointing your brother-in-law's behavior has been, but addiction has a way of blunting a person's humane responses. It's as if the disease has to find a way to win, so alcoholics naturally reject confrontations, course corrections or even expressions of concern.

To be clear, some people are just wired this way, even without addiction's pull.

Your brother-in-law told you exactly what he would do, then followed through.

One way to cope with your bitterness might be to see if you can conjure a way to feel sorry for this man, who denied himself contact with his brother, and can never make it up to him. It might ultimately help you to trade your bitterness for compassion.

Nothing you do will affect the real source of your grief, although releasing this element of bitterness in your life will definitely help.

Dear Amy: I've been a civil servant for 20 years and married for 11.

Our marriage has mostly been unhappy.

We have a 10-year-old daughter together and I have an adult child from a previous relationship.

I'm in my late 40s, and since I'm now pensionable, I can retire, move anywhere in the country and have a whole other career.

The problem is that I'm afraid of change.

I want to supplement my pension by working in another field.

Do you think it's wise to start over in another state?

I'm worried most about my daughter, but she's starting middle school and still doesn't have any lasting friendships in our small, affluent neighborhood, where we are blue-collar workers.

Confused

Dear Confused: You don't say whether any potential move would include your husband. This is obviously extremely important.

I don't think it is wise to uproot your daughter unless you've thought through all of the particulars and have a solid parenting plan in place. Look for transitional work closer to home and figure out your next step.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"I'm tellin', Billy! You're using up all the light!"

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

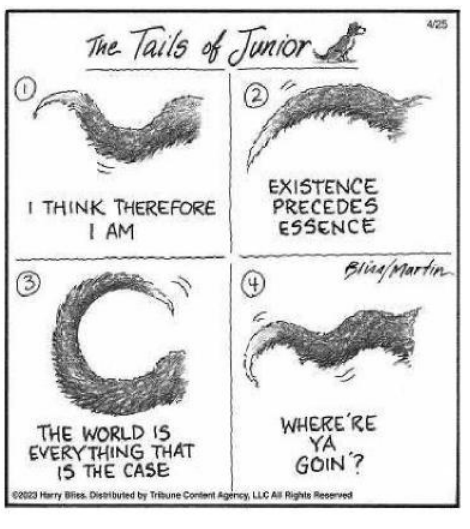
"IT'S JUST LIKE A SLEIGH RIDE, JOEY... ONLY BUMPIER AND SCARIER!"

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

"He's not staring at you, Uncle Fred. He's staring at your food."

BLISS By Harry Bliss



SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

I BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR THE KIDS' MENTAL HEALTH.
OH, ARE THOSE YOGA MATS, MR. PISTOLAS?
NO, YOGA IS "WOKE." I BROUGHT MATS FOR THE STUDENTS TO RELAX ON DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILLS.

PICKLES By Brian Crane

GUESS WHAT? TODAY IS THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED HAT SOCIETY!
IT'S AN ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN OVER FIFTY.
WE WEAR OUTRAGEOUS RED HATS AND CRAZY PURPLE DRESSES AND GO OUT TO LUNCH!
SORRY. NO MEN ARE ALLOWED.
I'LL GET OVER IT.

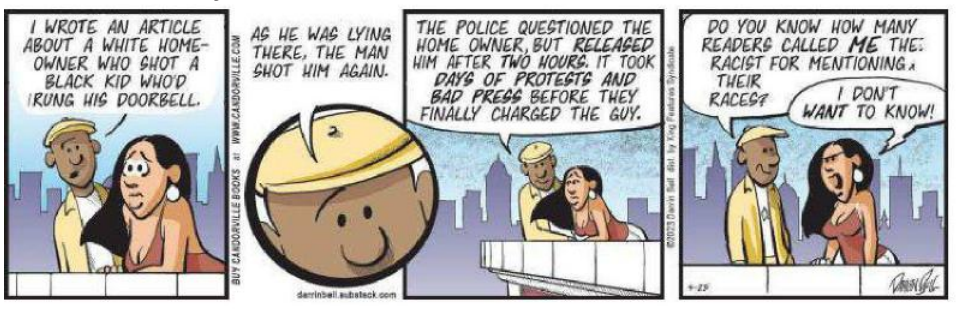
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

MILES, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I JUST BUSTED OUT!
OF WHAT? YOUR CLOTHES?
NO!
OUT OF PRISON!
YOU MEAN BEING GROUNDED?
SEMANTICS.
I THOUGHT YOU ONLY HAD TWO DAYS LEFT.
NO SUCH THING AS "ONLY TWO DAYS" ON THE INSIDE.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

DARRYL, ANOTHER HOUSE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WAS BURGLARIZED!
NO KIDDING.
THAT'S THREE HOUSES IN ONE WEEK!
WOW.
COULD OUR RUSTY OLD NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SIGN HAVE LOST ITS CRIME-FIGHTING MOJO?
THIS IS SERIOUS!
NEIGHBOR HOOD WATCH

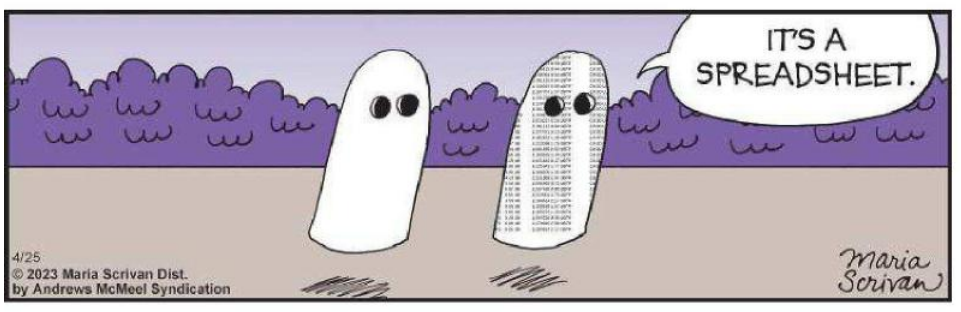
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


I WROTE AN ARTICLE ABOUT A WHITE HOMEOWNER WHO SHOT A BLACK KID WHO'D RUNG HIS DOORBELL.
AS HE WAS LYING THERE, THE MAN SHOT HIM AGAIN.
THE POLICE QUESTIONED THE HOME OWNER, BUT RELEASED HIM AFTER TWO HOURS. IT TOOK DAYS OF PROTESTS AND BAD PRESS BEFORE THEY FINALLY CHARGED THE GUY.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY READERS CALLED ME THE RACIST FOR MENTIONING THEIR RACES?
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
BUY CANDORVILLE BOOKS AT WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM
darrinbell.substack.com

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

SO MARY IS IN REHAB FROM DRIVING THE BUS FOR THE SENIOR CLASS TRIP?
YES, APPARENTLY SHE'S DEALING WITH PTSCTD.
PTSCTD?
POST-TRAUMATIC SENIOR CLASS TRIP DISORDER.
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
MANDATORY EVACUATION! THIS IS A FIRE DRILL, DANA!
DO I HEAR FIRE ENGINES?!
YES. YOU WERE BURNING A CANDLE IN HERE.
I'M NOT WALKING DOWN 10 FLIGHTS!
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE GOING OUT THIS WINDOW.
WOOP WOOP WOOP WOOP WOOP

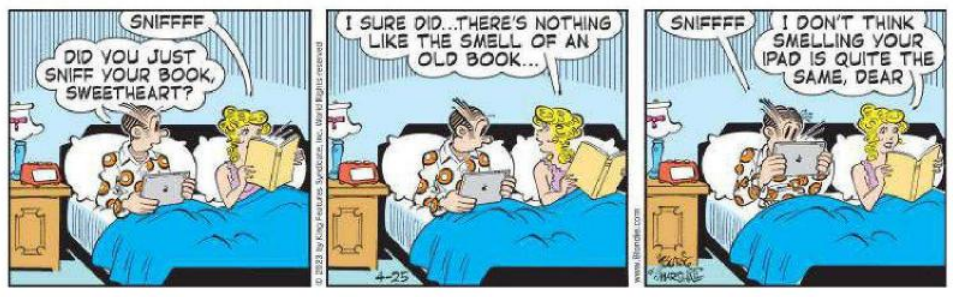
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RAT?
I STARTED WRITING BLUES SONGS. I LOVE THE GRIT AND THE HONESTY AND THE DESPERATION.
SO WHAT DO YOU HAVE THE BLUES ABOUT?
TRADER JOE'S WAS OUT OF MY FAVORITE COOKIES.
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD COOKIES.

MACANUDO By Liniers

LIO By Mark Tatulli

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall


SNIFFFF
DID YOU JUST SNIFF YOUR BOOK, SWEETHEART?
I SURE DID...THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE SMELL OF AN OLD BOOK...
SNIFFFF
I DON'T THINK SMELLING YOUR IPAD IS QUITE THE SAME, DEAR
4-25

ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

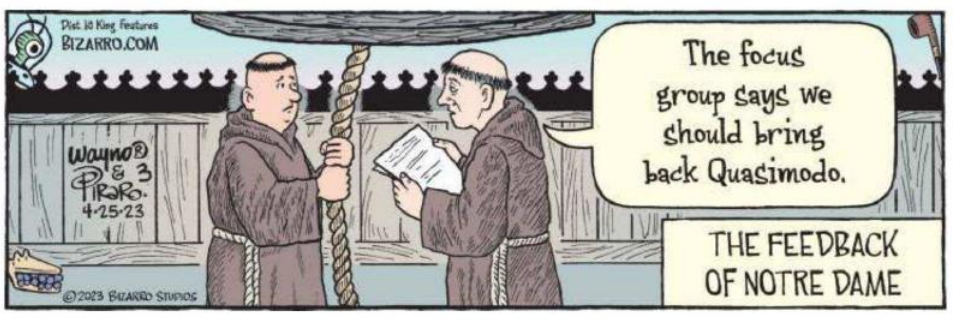
JEREMY, I MAY HAVE A LEAD ON A SUMMER INTERNSHIP FOR YOU!
IT MAY NOT BE GLAMOROUS, BUT CAULKING IS AN UNDERAPPRECIATED SKILL.
I WAS JUST TELLING JEREMY ABOUT A SUMMER INTERNSHIP.
I CAN TELL.
LA-LA-LA!

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH A DIFFICULTY— IT HELPS TO REMEMBER THE SERENITY PRAYER—
GOD, GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE, COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN, AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
...THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE...
THAT'S THE TRICKY PART

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro


Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 4-25-23
The focus group says we should bring back Quasimodo.
THE FEEDBACK OF NOTRE DAME
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS

SIX CHIX By Bianca Xunise

DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

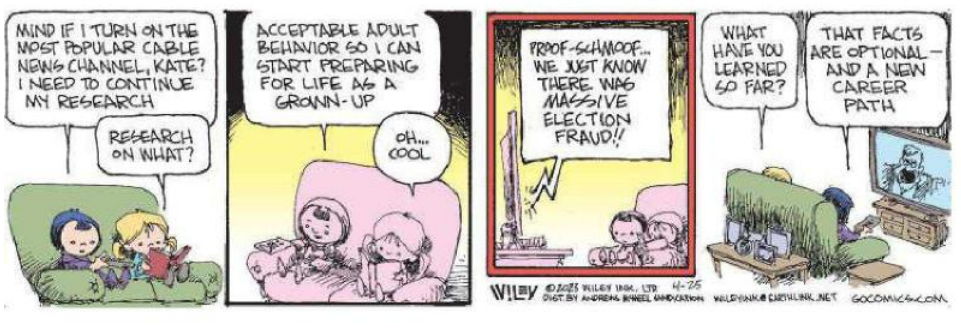
NEIL, YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND NAMED ECHO? ME, TOO!
WHAT ARE THE CHANCES IT'S THE SAME GIRL?
A MILLION TO ONE!
THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF GIRLS NAMED...
4-25-23
ECHO!
HI, NEILY-POO!

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

LOOK. BUYING MY COFFEE FROM A DRIVE-THRU IS NOT CHEATING.
IF THERE'S A RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO STREAMLINE MY LIFE AND I CHOOSE TO USE IT, THAT'S MY PREROGATIVE.
SO...
DID SHE LET YOU USE A CALCULATOR FOR YOUR MULTIPLICATION QUIZ?
I WAS SO CLOSE.
4-25

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


MIND IF I TURN ON THE MOST POPULAR CABLE NEWS CHANNEL, KATE? I NEED TO CONTINUE MY RESEARCH
RESEARCH ON WHAT?
ACCEPTABLE ADULT BEHAVIOR SO I CAN START PREPARING FOR LIFE AS A GROWN-UP
OH... COOL
PROOF-SCHMOOF... WE JUST KNOW THERE WAS MASSIVE ELECTION FRAUD!!
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED SO FAR?
THAT FACTS ARE OPTIONAL— AND A NEW CAREER PATH
WILEY
4-25

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

HEY, CAT!
MY LITTLE FRIEND, HERE, WANTS TO CHALLENGE YOU!
HE SAYS HE'LL MEET YOU ANY TIME, ANY PLACE!
LIKE, ESPECIALLY THIRTY FEET IN THE AIR!

There's poetry in the motion in film

[**Dance,** from E1]

So what is a dance feature film?

While dancers and filmmakers alike are still exploring the art form, "Carmen" offers a glimpse into its potential. The picture uses dance as a narrative tool to advance the characters and plot forward — something that is rarely seen in a feature movie.

"It's all about the body," "Carmen" cinematographer Jörg Widmer said. "It's all about the beauty of some steps or jumps."

The film follows Carmen ("In the Heights" star Melissa Barrera) as she flees her home in Mexico after her mother's murder.

When she crosses into the U.S., she comes across Marine-turned-border-patrolman Aidan ("Aftersun's" Paul Mescal) and his partner. A lethal standoff ensues and the outcome leads Carmen and Aidan to seek refuge together in Los Angeles. In the race for safety and a new life, the two explore their internal conflicts through movement.

The film's cinematographer often cuts to close-ups of body parts like a hand, elbow or face in the middle of a conversation and sits there for a seemingly uncomfortable amount of time. But in paying attention to the body, the storytelling is amplified.

For example, as Aidan reconnects with an old friend, his PTSD rears its head. Instead of focusing on the face, Widmer moves the camera up, focusing on the friend gripping Aidan's arm. As Aidan shuffles, body language becomes the central voice, saying everything about his past while a trivial conversation occurs in the present.

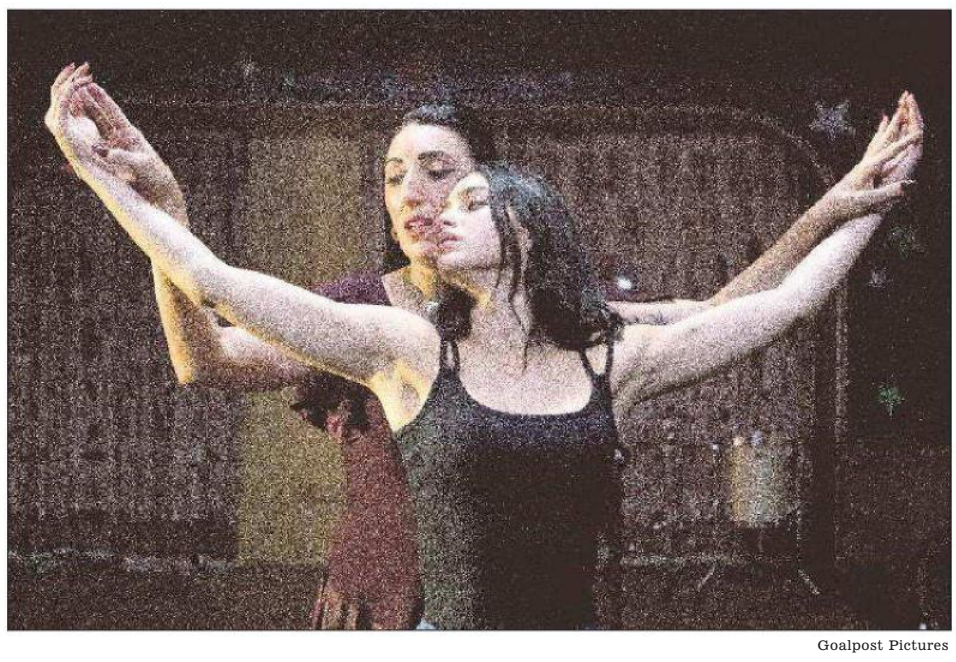
"He wanted to tell the story," Widmer said of Millepied. "He didn't only want to make it a great dance movie; he wanted to integrate it to tell the common story as a drama."

Integration is key to a dance film. In the zeitgeist of dance cinema, such movies are usually musicals (including "La La Land," "High School Musical" and Broadway adaptations) or rehearsal process films (think "Step Up," "Center Stage" and "Climax.") In both these instances, the choreography is dictated by a cognizant audience.

This is where films like "Carmen" depart. The dance is done as if no one is watching and we, the viewers, are flies on the wall.

When the duo enters a pseudo-dream sequence on the way to Los Angeles, the pair end up at what seems to be a carnival in the middle of the desert.

Dancers appear and begin to interact with Carmen. As dancers move out of unison, so does the camera. It starts to focus on a few dancers at a time, often capturing only an arm or torso. At one point, the camera even drops low and looks up at the ensemble as the performers spin.



Goalpost Pictures

MELISSA BARRERA, front, and Rossy de Palma in the dance-centric "Carmen."

"We're not coming to dance onstage," associate choreographer Holly Doyle said. "We're coming from the wilderness to meet Carmen in this weird dream state."

The movement of the camera — what is on- and off-screen — is like visual dialogue.

In preparation for the scene, Millepied tested routes, making room for where steadicam operator Andrew AJ Johnson would fit into the movement.

"I worked closely with [Johnson] as well because I had to learn his choreography," Doyle said. "If he missed his window, then there would be collisions.

"He's the eyes of the entire scene."

The scene is a tango between the camera, Carmen and the performers that encapsulates the marriage of dance and film. There is attention given to all angles of the movement.

Choreographers are often asked to teach filmmakers about capturing dance because it is unfamiliar to them. When the director is also the choreographer, or at least someone familiar with dance, the issue is avoided completely and more attention can be given to the film.

"He knew exactly what he wanted," Doyle said of Millepied. "He always came prepared, steps literally were flowing out of him."

What resulted is a clear image and tone for "Carmen." In preparation for filming with Widmer, Millepied dug through old movies for inspiration. Widmer recalled watching a few Russian pictures and discussing what he liked and didn't like about the cinematography.

Dance has had a stronger presence on film since pandemic-related closures began in March 2020. At the time, dancers were forced to abandon their studios and create from their homes.

What resulted was an urge to move to film. Dance Camera West, an organization that presents and fosters talent, cemented itself as a home for creatives to share their movies.

Dancers and filmmakers are continuing to experiment with using dance to tell a story for the screen, from pictures such as "Aviva" to the Savage X Fenty show. Dance is becoming a respected component of the film industry.

The final moments of "Carmen" are packed with dance, jumping from a bar to a warehouse to a desert. It shifts from real life to a dreamlike escape, all knit together by leaps, turns and swings of the arm.

"It goes so smoothly from the narration to the dance sequences," Widmer said. "It's poetry."

'Carmen'

In Spanish and English with English subtitles.

Rated: R, for language, some violence and nudity

Running time: 1 hour, 56 minutes

Playing: Laemmle Royal, West Los Angeles

MSNBC

JOHN LEGUIZAMO dines with chef Juan Chipoco in an episode of "Leguizamo Does America." The new docuseries highlights Latino leaders across the country.

Latino might on view

[**Leguizamo,** from E1]

lesson and part reality-show doc, packaged as fast-paced 60-minute episodes featuring Leguizamo's biting, irreverent humor and good-natured love of life and learning. As he introduces viewers to Latinx leaders in L.A.; New York; Chicago; Miami; Washington, D.C.; and Puerto Rico, it's clear he's also relishing learning more about these people and their stories.

His subjects, chosen with the help of his largely Latinx crew, include artists, writers, showrunners, architects, restaurateurs, DJs, musicians, politicians and activists, alongside others making things better in their communities by simply being there. Old Cuban men playing chess in a park in Miami, for example, or the man who makes chopped cheese sandwiches at a bodega in Queens.

Leguizamo is striving to convey these people's importance to a multicultural audience that includes Latino viewers, whom Leguizamo says often have not had the opportunity to understand their own power and influence. Latinx stories are not regularly told in American history classes, he says, and if they are, the stories often are whitewashed or otherwise made historically inaccurate.

"We don't realize that we contribute $2.8 trillion to the American GDP every year," he says, his voice rising in excitement. "If we were our own country, we'd be the fifth-largest economy in the world — bigger than England, bigger than Italy, bigger than Brazil."

Leguizamo is a self-professed "math kid" and says calculus was his "religion" in college — just the beauty of finding a concrete answer if you worked out the problem and showed the proof. He says he found solace in the simple, inarguable logic of that process, and that statistics have become a way of life for him.

He rattles them off with practiced precision — having committed them to memory to drive his central point home: America's Latino communities are incalculably valuable, influential and worthy of celebration.

'Leguizamo Does America'

Where: MSNBC
When: 7 p.m. Sunday
Streaming: Peacock
Rated: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17)

In Los Angeles, Leguizamo notes that Latinx people represent nearly 50% of the city's population. At the Hollywood box office, he says, Latinos account for one-third of frequent moviegoers, boosting revenue for studios that still massively underrepresent them on film.

"We're not getting our value for our money," he says.

Leguizamo has emerged as one of Hollywood's most visible champions of Latinx culture. His uncompromising call for inclusion also makes him one of the group's most fierce activists. It was not a role he envisioned for himself as a starry-eyed young acting hopeful from the Jackson Heights neighborhood of Queens.

"I was just a funny kid who was gonna be funny all his life. I was the class clown. And then I realized that things were not fair," he says. "I'm in a class at NYU — the only Latin kid — and all these white actors were going to five auditions a day, and I'm going to one every five months, and I'm going for drug dealers, murderers, killers, servants."

Leguizamo said until then he had been idealistic and believed in American meritocracy. As an A-student, paying the same tuition as his white peers, he realized that ideal was a lie when faced with cast breakdowns featuring only "white male actor, white lead actor, white romantic lead, white doctor."

He remembers thinking, "Why won't they see me? Why can't they see me?" But he knew the answer.

In 2022, at the height of his professional success, he wrote an open letter to Hollywood published in The Times.

"If white people are 59% of the American population, why do they seem to get 120% of the casting, crew and executive team?" he wrote, noting that Latinos represented a mere 2.9% of the leads in TV, movies, streaming and stage productions.

Leguizamo had already cemented his status as a wrecking ball of the dominant white cultural narrative in 2018 with his Tony-nominated one-man Broadway show, "Latin History for Morons." In that show, Leguizamo set out to unearth the untold Latinx history that his son never learned in school.

With his signature sarcasm and verve, Leguizamo laid out buried facts in that show, including awful ones about how a majority of Latinx people suffered genocide — with entire languages, cultures and religions destroyed.

In "Leguizamo Does America," the actor does not shy away from the horrors of Latinx history but mostly seeks to highlight its joy, its resilience and its vibrant communities in each place he visits.

In the Los Angeles episode, which has not yet aired, Leguizamo swings by a favorite taco truck with comedian George Lopez and makes fun of himself for being afraid of how hot the salsa might be. The show is full of good-natured digs at white folks, and when Leguizamo asks what white foodies usually order at the truck, the co-owner answers, "quesadillas."

Leguizamo also has a fascinating talk with filmmaker Robert Rodriguez about how he made the groundbreaking Spanish-language indie hit "El Mariachi" in 1992, and what he has done since then to raise the profile of Latinx actors, writers and directors.

Rodriguez is notable for his success, but Leguizamo says true equality will have been achieved only when Latinx creators are so omnipresent that they are granted a very particular form of grace: "We as Latinx people need to be allowed to fail as much as white people are allowed to fail," he says. "White people are allowed 'Ishtar,' they are allowed 'Waterworld,' they're allowed 'Jack and Jill.' "

"We need to be allowed to fail too," he concludes. "That's equality, right?"

Don Lemon fired by CNN

[**Lemon,** from E1]

program "CNN This Morning," which Lemon co-anchored, according to people familiar with the matter who were not authorized to comment.

Lemon was briefly suspended in February after he made offensive comments about when a woman is past her "prime" while speaking about 51-year-old Republican former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who is running for the party's presidential nomination for the 2024 election.

In an unusual move, Licht told the staff in a memo announcing Lemon's return from suspension that the anchor would undergo "formal training" — most likely diversity, equity and inclusion instruction from parent company Warner Bros. Discovery's human resources department.

In his Twitter statement on Monday, Lemon indicated that he had been blindsided by the news.

"At no time was I ever given any indication that I would not be able to continue to do the work I have loved at the network," Lemon wrote.

"It is clear that there are some larger issues at play," Lemon said. "With that said, I want to thank my colleagues and the many teams I have worked with for an incredible run. They are the most talented journalists in the business, and I wish them all the best."

The Louisiana native, who joined CNN in 2006, became a popular figure during his eight years in the network's prime-time lineup.

He generated fans for being outspoken about often culturally taboo topics. In his 2011 book, "Transparent," Lemon came out as gay and discussed the stigmas of being a gay Black man.

He encouraged others to speak candidly about their sexual orientation, saying "there's a degree of deception in silence."

He moved into CNN's prime-time lineup in 2014 and was key in the network's coverage of the protests in Ferguson, Mo., after a police officer was not indicted for the shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager.

As the only African American cable news anchor in prime-time, Lemon's profile grew even larger in 2020 in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by police officers.

As protesters spilled into the streets, Lemon called on Hollywood celebrities to publicly voice their support. "Where are you? Why aren't you fighting for these young people? If you don't do it now, when are you going to do it?" Lemon demanded.

He used his platform to help shape the national discourse on race relations. Viewers responded positively; his prime-time show drew nearly 2.5 million people.

"I feel like I found my voice and found my groove," Lemon told The Times in June 2020. "This is my time to be me on TV."

Lemon also helped CNN provide breaking news coverage throughout the day, including Floyd's first memorial service.

He was called on to provide signature coverage of CNN's New Years celebrations and other high-profile events. Last September, Licht dispatched Lemon to Britain after Queen Elizabeth II died and he anchored broadcasts from Scotland.

But earlier this year, Licht moved Lemon to the mornings as part of a high-stakes makeover of the early morning show. There, Lemon was paired with fellow personalities Poppy Harlow and Kaitlan Collins.

The move proved to be an awkward fit for Lemon.

The uproar over his remarks about Haley prompted conservatives to pile on the network, which has been attempting to move to the political center after enduring much criticism from former President Trump and his allies.

Lemon's sexist remarks also fomented anger among CNN's female employees. Lemon was trying to critique Haley's statements that political leaders over 75 should undergo competency testing. But Lemon's attempt to attack one type of ageism went awry.

"All the talk about age makes me uncomfortable — I think it's a wrong road to go down," Lemon began. "She says politicians, or something, are not in their prime. Nikki Haley isn't in her prime — sorry — when a woman is considered to be in her prime in her 20s and 30s, maybe 40s."

Co-anchor Harlow interjected, telling Lemon to "wait," and asked a couple of times, "Prime for what?"

The distraction added to the network's woes, which had been roiled for months by layoffs, cost-cutting and the 2022 ouster of the network's longtime leader Jeff Zucker, who had long been one of Lemon's biggest champions at the network.

CNN's owners Warner Bros. Discovery brought Licht in from CBS last year and tasked him with tempering CNN's most outspoken anchors.

The goal was to attract more conservatives to the network.

"I would like to see CNN evolve back to the kind of journalism that it started with, and actually have journalists, which would be unique and refreshing," said cable TV pioneer and major Discovery shareholder John Malone on CNBC in 2021, before the merger of Discovery and WarnerMedia assets closed.

Times staff writer Stephen Battaglio contributed to this report.

Evan Agostini Invision / Associated Press

"CNN THIS MORNING" anchors Kaitlan Collins, left, Don Lemon and Poppy Harlow. He came under fire in February for sexist comments about Nikki Haley.